

Aruba

TODAY

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Monday, April 15, 2013



Venezuela's interim President Nicolas Maduro gestures before placing his ballot in a box during the presidential election in Caracas, Venezuela, Sunday, April 14, 2013. Associated Press

Chavez heir chosen to lead Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelan electoral officials say voters have narrowly elected Hugo Chavez's hand-picked successor as president in a razor-close special election Sunday.

Winner Nicolas Maduro campaigned on a promise to carry on Chavez's self-styled socialist revolution, and defeated a two-time challenger who claimed the late president's regime has put Venezuela on the road to ruin.

Officials say Maduro defeated Henrique Capriles by only about 300,000 votes. The margin was 50.8 percent to 49.1 percent. Challenger Henrique Capriles' main campaign weapon was to simply emphasize "the incompetence of the state," as he put it to reporters Saturday night.

Continued on page 7



This photo taken Saturday, April 13, 2013 volunteers at a command post off Exit 52 along Interstate 90 prepare to join in the rescue operation to look for at least one missing snowshoer in Snoqualmie Pass, Wash. A female snowshoer has died hours after she was dug out of an avalanche by fellow hikers, and a man remained missing Sunday, one day after a pair of spring avalanches struck separate groups hiking in the Cascade Mountains east of Seattle, authorities in Washington state said.

Associated Press
Page 5

Obama's budget plan limits his bargaining power

**JIM KUHNHENN,
JULIE PACE
Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's budget overtures to Republicans may limit his bargaining power if the opposition party ever returns to the negotiating table on a grand deficit-reduction deal. In essence, Obama's spending blueprint is a final offer, a no-budget budget whose central elements have failed to persuade Republicans in the past.

By voluntarily putting entitlement cuts on the table, particularly a proposal to slow the rise of Social Security retirement benefits, Obama has no other gambit to win tax increases from Republicans. With many Democrats balking at what Obama is already offering, it's not politically feasible for him to offer the Republicans anything more.

Continued on page 2



President Barack Obama, accompanied by acting Budget Director Jeffrey Zients, speaks in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, Wednesday April 10, 2013, to discuss his proposed fiscal 2014 federal budget.

Associated Press

U.S. senator says immigration deal needs tough terms

WASHINGTON (AP) — A bipartisan deal on immigration reform legislation would need tough enforcement and even stricter penalties for those who came to the United States illegally, a leading Republican at the center of negotiations said Sunday.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, who's among the bipartisan group of eight senators, known as the "Gang of Eight," writing a plan that's expected to come out Tuesday, tried to promote the framework for the emerging overhaul that would provide a path toward citizenship for those who came to the country illegally or overstayed their visit.

While the deal does include a long and difficult process for the 11 million individuals in question, Rubio insisted the proposal does not include an "amnesty" provision that fellow conservatives have called a deal-breaker.

"We're not awarding anybody anything. All we're doing is giving people the opportunity to eventually earn access to our new, improved and modernized legal immigration system,"



In this Jan. 28, 2013, file photo Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., center, speaks at a Capitol Hill news conference on immigration legislation with a members of a bipartisan group of leading senators, including, from left, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. and Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., in Washington. After months of arduous closed-door negotiations, the "Gang of Eight" senators equally divided between the two parties had no issues left to resolve in person, and no more negotiating sessions were planned. Remaining details were left to aides, who were at work completing drafts of the bill.

Associated Press

said Rubio, a Cuban-American.

The immigration overhaul is a top priority for President Barack Obama in his second-term and one of the few major issues in which there is a possibil-

ity of reaching a bipartisan agreement in a bitterly divided Congress.

Republicans have been showing signs of being more amenable to immigration legislation after badly losing the votes of Hispanics in

the 2012. Obama received about 70 percent of the Hispanic vote — a growing demographic group that is expected to play an even bigger role in future elections.

But Republican lawmakers

are also mindful that the party's base still favors a tough stance on illegal immigration.

Despite Rubio's assurances about making the pathway to citizenship a long and lengthy process, some of his fellow Republicans are still expressing serious doubts.

"I'm not convinced," said Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama. "I know Sen. Rubio's heart is exactly right. And I really respect the work of the 'Gang of Eight.' But they have produced legislation ... that will give amnesty now, legalize everyone that's here effectively today and then there's a promise of enforcement in the future."

Rubio said he would abandon the overhaul effort if enforcement, border security and other elements are softened to his dissatisfaction.

With an eye on a possible presidential run in 2016, Rubio has been careful not to appear weak on border security or create political problems among the conservatives who have great sway in picking the Republican nominee. □

Obama

Continued from Front

Puzzled Democrats maintain that Obama not only has given away his leverage, he also has threatened the very identity of his party, which sees the Social Security Act of 1935 signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as one of its signature achievements. "If he's trying to do it to show he is forthcoming as a negotiator, then why doesn't he wait until he gets to the negotiating table?" said Democratic Rep. Rush Holt. "There's a lot of talk about the fact that politically this is not a winner. Our brand is the party that brought you Social Security."

What's irked Democrats the most is Obama's decision to include a significant shift in policy in his

\$3.8 trillion budget that change the way the government measures inflation, or the Consumer Price Index. If adopted, this new "chained CPI" would slow the rise in Social Security benefits and other programs.

In exchange, Obama is insisting on \$580 billion in tax increases on wealthier taxpayers. It's a demand that Republicans flatly reject.

The president has offered the benefit cut to Republicans before as part of broad deficit reduction negotiations, and only in exchange for tax increases the Republicans stringently opposes. The White House says the same quid pro quo applies to Obama's current offer, and chained CPI can't take effect as a solo measure.

"You can't decide to only pick out the concessions the president has made



House Budget Committee Chairman Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, holds a copy of President Barack Obama's fiscal 2014 budget proposal book as he questions Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, April 12, 2013, as Sebelius testified before the House Ways and Means Committee hearing on the HHS fiscal 2014 budget request.

Associated Press

and not include the concessions that are from the Republican side, that need to be part of a bipartisan deal that could pass both

houses," said Gene Sperling, the top White House economist.

Faced with the withering criticism from Democratic

and liberal allies, the White House has argued that the inflation proposal in the budget is a response to specific Republican demands during budget talks last year. "This is a Republican proposal," White House spokesman Jay Carney insisted.

But the idea has been part of the thinking in Obama's inner economic circle for two years, one the president put on the table during debt ceiling talks with the Republicans in the summer of 2011.

Obama aides say the president had to include the Social Security change in the budget or risk being accused by Republicans of walking away from his previous offers. They say giving Republicans some of the entitlement cuts they seek means they have one less reason to say no to the president's proposals. □

Some states dropping GED as test price spikes

By HEATHER HOLLING-SWORTH

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) —

Several dozen states are looking for an alternative to the GED high school equivalency test because of concerns that a new version coming out next year is more costly and will no longer be offered in a pencil and paper format. The responsibility for issuing high school equivalency certificates or diplomas rests with states, and they've relied on the General Education Development exam since soon after the test was created to help returning World War II veterans.

But now 40 states and the District of Columbia are participating in a working group that's considering what's available besides the GED, and two test makers are hawking new exams.

"It's a complete paradigm shift because the GED has been the monopoly. It's been the only thing in town for high school equivalency testing. It's kind of like Kleenex at this point," said Amy Riker, director of high school equivalency testing for Educational Testing Service, which developed one of the alternative tests. Last month, New York, Montana and New Hampshire announced they were switching to a new high school equivalency exam, and California officials began looking into amending regulations to drop the requirement that the state only use the GED test. Missouri has requested bids from test makers and plans to make a decision this month. Several other states, including Massachusetts, Maine, Indiana and Iowa, are making plans to request information about alternative exams.

Meanwhile, Tennessee and New Jersey are exploring offering more than one test.

"The national situation is definitely fluid," said Tom Robbins, Missouri's director of adult education and

high school equivalency, noting that other states plan to use the GED for now and bid later.

The pushback comes as GED Testing Service prepares to introduce a new version of the exam in January. In the first revamp since for-profit Pearson Vue Testing acquired a joint ownership interest in the nonprofit Washington-based GED Testing Service, the cost of the test is doubling to \$120. That's led to a case of sticker shock for test takers, nonprofits and states. Some states subsidize some or all of the expense of the exam, while others add an administrative fee. The new GED test would cost \$140 to take in Missouri if the state sticks with it.

Kirk Proctor, of the Missouri Career Center, said the organization is looking for a way to cover the increased test cost for students participating in a GED preparation and job training program he oversees. He said his students can't come up with \$140, noting they need help paying for the current, cheaper test.

"A lot of them are just barely making it," he said. "Transportation is a challenge. Eating is a challenge. For them, coming up with \$140 for an assessment, it's basically telling them, 'Forget about ever getting this part of your life complete.'"

One program participant, Nicole Williams, a 21-year-old Kansas City mother of three, said she was hopeful she'd pass the GED test soon so she could avoid the electronic version. With it, she said, "you've got to learn how to type, use the computer, plus your GED. That's three things instead of just trying to focus all on your GED test."

Developers say the new version is needed because nearly all states are adopting tougher math and reading standards to ensure students are prepared for college and careers. Because the new version is so different, a million or so adults who have passed



In this Thursday, April 11, 2013 photo, Deni Loving teaches a GED class in Kansas City, Mo. Several dozen states are looking for an alternative to the GED high school equivalency test because of concerns that a new version coming out next year is more costly and will no longer be offered in a pencil and paper format.

Associated Press

some but not all of the five parts of the current GED test must complete the missing sections by Dec. 31. If not, their scores will expire and they'll have to begin again under the new program Jan. 1.

"The GED was in dangerous position of no longer being a reflection of what high schools were graduating," said Randy Trask, president and CEO of GED Testing Service, which previously was solely operated by the nonprofit American Council on Education.

He said the computerized version, which students are passing at higher rates than the paper version in pilot sites, will be cheaper to administer because states will no longer have to pick up the tab for things like grading the exam. For test-takers who fail a section, the computerized version provides details about what skills they need to work on before retaking the exam.

"I personally went into it a little bit naively," said Trask of the new version. "I don't know why I expected a marching band, but I did because I'm convinced that what we are doing is the right thing for the adults in this country."

Competitors responded with a paper version and a cheaper base price, although GED Testing Service said its price includes services the other two test makers don't.

The alternative exams' makers also said they will work with states to find ways to combine scores from the GED with their new exams so students who have passed some sections of the current GED won't be forced to start from scratch. GED Testing Service said that would undermine the validity of a state's equivalency credential or diploma.

Trask also said he feared the competing exams would be confusing for colleges and employers. But states considering switching say they'll put more emphasis on the equivalency credential or diploma they issue rather than the test taken to earn it.

Art Ellison, who leads the Bureau of Adult Education in New Hampshire, called the sudden choice in the exams "the new reality of adult education." His state and Montana are switching to HiSET, a \$50 test that the Educational Testing Service, or ETS, is offering. Both states said cost influ-

enced their decision, with Montana's Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau proclaiming in a news release that residents "looking to improve their economic situation by obtaining a high school equivalency diploma should not have to overcome a significant financial barrier in order to achieve that goal." Ellison also noted that a paper option was important because many students in adult education classes lack the skills needed to take a computer-based test and that it will take time to beef up the courses to add that training.

Meanwhile, New York chose California-based CTB/McGraw-Hill's new Test Assessing Secondary Completion, or TASC. Developers said it will range in price from \$50 to \$60.

Regents Chancellor Merryl Tisch said in a news release that without the change, New York would have had to pay the GED test maker twice as much or limit the number of test takers because state law bars residents from being charged to take the equivalency exam.

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Close vote seen on background checks on gun buyers

DINA CAPIELLO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A bipartisan proposal to expand background checks for gun buyers faced an uncertain fate in the Senate with its sponsors saying Sunday that a vote expected this week was too close to call even as family members of the Connecticut school shooting victims pleaded for its passage.

The measure requires background checks for people buying guns at gun shows and online. Background checks currently apply only to transactions handled by the country's 55,000 licensed gun dealers. Private transactions, such as a sale of a gun between family members, would still be exempt.

The measure, proposed by Republican Sen. Pat Toomey and Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin, requires background checks for people buying guns at gun shows and online.

Background checks currently apply only to transactions handled by the country's 55,000 licensed gun dealers. Private transactions, such as a sale of a gun between family members, would still be exempt.



Eds: Adds Manchin comment on gun rights group backing the amendment; adds background; adds photo, video, audio links. Interactive: <http://hosted.ap.org/interactives/2012/gun-control>. AP Video. With AP Photos. For global distribution.

It will take 60 votes to pass because some Republicans have pledged to use Senate procedural maneuvers to block a final vote. That means more Republicans will have to come on board because several Democrats from gun-friendly states are expected to oppose the measure. "It's an open question as to whether or not we have the votes. I think it's going to be close," Toomey said. Even if the Senate approves the measure, it still

faces an uphill climb in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives where Speaker John Boehner has the power to decide whether to allow a vote on the bill. Manchin urged lawmakers to read the 49-page proposal. He said it should dispel any misconceptions about infringing on the 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution which guarantees the right to bear arms.

"You can imagine for what, the last two or three

months, that all you heard is they're going to take this away from you and that away," and all of the gun groups are trying to outdo each other, Manchin said Sunday on Fox News Channel. But Manchin said Alan Gottlieb, the chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, has decided to back the proposal after reading it. Gottlieb decided the bill "protects law-abiding gun owners like myself.

And they are supporting it now. That is huge," Manchin said. Gottlieb did not respond to a request Sunday to provide more details of the position taken by his group. The senators' agreement actually includes language expanding firearms rights by easing some restrictions on transporting guns across state lines, protecting sellers from lawsuits if buyers passed a check but later used a gun in a crime and letting gun dealers conduct business in states where they don't live.

Manchin acknowledged the vote would be tight. Asked how many votes he thought he had now, Manchin said, "Well, we're close. We need more."

The Dec. 14 shootings of 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, has spurred an effort to pass gun control legislation.

Some of the Sandy Hook families, with President Barack Obama's blessing, have launched a stepped-up effort to lobby lawmakers personally and push a gun control bill through a bitterly divided Congress. The mother of a 6-year-old boy killed at Sandy Hook filled in for Obama to deliver the weekly radio and Internet address to make a personal plea from the White House for action to combat gun violence.

"Thousands of other families across the United States are also drowning in our grief," said Francine Wheeler, choking back tears in the address broadcast Saturday. "Please help us do something before our tragedy becomes your tragedy."

But so far Maine Sen. Susan Collins and Illinois Sen. Mark Kirk are the only two Republicans besides Toomey who are expected to vote for the compromise. The plan would "strengthen the background check system without in any way infringing on Second Amendment rights," Collins said in a statement explaining her support for the measure. But she added that "it is impossible to predict at this point" what will be in a final bill.

Arizona Sen. John McCain said he was "very favorably disposed" to the proposal put forth by Toomey and Manchin, who both have received high ratings from the National Rifle Association, the influential gun rights lobbying group. "I appreciate their work," McCain said, referring to the two senators. "And the American people want to do what we can to prevent these tragedies. □"



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1 dead, 1 missing in avalanches east of Seattle



This photo taken Saturday, April 13, 2013 shows Won Shin, 56, of Mukilteo, Wash. who was among the four who made it off the mountain first. Shin, was among the group of 12 snowshoers who were on Red Mountain at the time of the avalanche.

Associated Press

SNOQUALMIE PASS, Washington (AP) — A female snowshoer died hours after she was dug out of an avalanche by fellow hikers, and a man remained missing Sunday, one day after a pair of spring avalanches struck separate groups hiking in the Cascade Mountains east of Seattle, authorities in Washington state said.

Sgt. Katie Larson, with the King County Sheriff's Office, said a team of rescuers worked through the night in blizzard-like conditions to carry the female snowshoer off the mountain just after midnight.

Medics confirmed that the woman had died when they reached the base of the mountain, Larson said. "The conditions yesterday were horrific," Larson said Sunday. "It took 25 rescuers about five to six hours" to bring her off the mountain in a sled.

The woman, whose identity was not known, had been hiking with her dog near a group of a dozen other

people Saturday afternoon when an avalanche hit Red Mountain near Snoqualmie Pass.

She was buried in five feet (1.5 meters) of snow but was dug out with the help of a group of a dozen snowshoers, who had also been caught in the avalanche. Members of the group told authorities that it took them 45 minutes to find the woman. "They did their best to try to warm her up," Larson said.

This is the first avalanche fatality reported in Washington state for the 2012-2013 season, according to the Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center in Seattle. Nationwide, 16 others have died avalanches this season, according to the Colorado Avalanche Information Center.

Meanwhile, the search for a 60-year-old hiker who was swept down the mountain in a separate avalanche at Granite Mountain Saturday was suspended indefinitely due to the poor weather conditions.

"There was a heavy snow dump last night, and conditions are still very hazardous," Larson said.

The man, from Kent, Washington state, was with two other friends when the avalanche carried them more than 1,200 feet (365 meters) down the mountain. The two friends emerged from the snow, but their friend did not. The two survivors suffered injuries that were described as not life-threatening. One of them was taken to a hospital for treatment, but Larson did not know his condition.

The avalanches occurred as heavy snow fell near Snoqualmie Pass.

Kenny Kramer, director of the Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center, said between 20 and 30 inches (50 and 75 centimeters) of snow fell over the weekend and the center warned of dangerous avalanche conditions.

"We had a considerable danger," the meteorologist said Sunday. "We were expecting a lot of snow."

All that new snow was weakly attached to the old snow crust, making it more unstable, Kramer said. Avalanches during the spring are not a rare occurrence, he said, noting that there's a secondary peak of incidents during this time because the Northwest still sees winter-type storms that brings lots of snow. When that snow falls in the spring, it often warms up quickly,

creating unstable conditions, he said.

Won Shin, 56, of Mukilteo, Washington state, was among the group of 12 snowshoers who were on Red Mountain at the time of the avalanche. He told The Seattle Times that when the avalanche hit, "the only thing I thought about was just, 'Get out of here.' I've never felt anything like that." □

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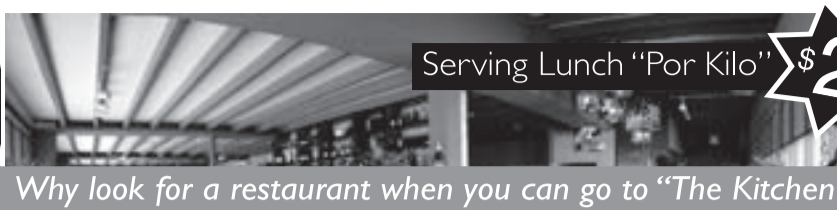
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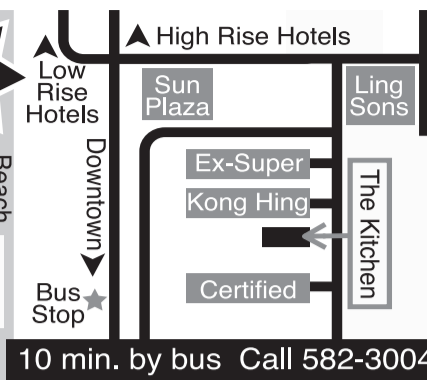


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CHP: Bus at 'unsafe' speed before Yosemite wreck

JOHN S. MARSHALL

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

A tour bus carrying visitors from Yosemite National Park was traveling at an unsafe speed when the driver lost control and crashed on a mountain road, leaving 16 people injured, the California Highway Patrol said Sunday.

The bus, operated by a company that specializes in providing tours to the Chinese-American community, was about six miles (10 kilometers) outside of the south entrance of the park when it went off Highway 41, a winding mountain road, when it crashed about 6 p.m. Saturday. It came to a stop when it hit a tree, CHP Officer Scott Jobinger said.

Fifteen passengers and a tour guide suffered minor to moderate injuries.

"At this point the cause was the bus was traveling at unsafe speed," Jobinger



A fatality is rolled away as emergency responders works the scene of bush crash on the George Bush Turnpike Thursday, April 11, 2013, in Irving, Texas. The chartered bus overturned on the busy highway near Dallas on killing at least two people and injuring several others.

Associated Press

said. He said the accident remained under investigation to determine if other factors played a role.

CHP Sgt. Edward Greene told the Fresno Bee that the impact of the crash caused several passengers to be thrown to the driver's side of the bus, with the

bus stopping when it hit the tree.

"If the tree wasn't there to stop the bus, it would have continued down the ravine," Greene said.

The 15 injured passengers, described as mostly elderly, and a tour guide were taken to local hospitals for

treatment.

Four of the injured were treated at Community Regional Medical Center, and four were treated at Clovis Community Medical Center, said Jennifer Avila-Allen, a spokeswoman for the hospitals. All but one at Community Regional had

been released, she said. The conditions of the others, taken to a different hospital, were not known. It was not known if all of the injured were hurt seriously enough to be admitted for treatment, Jobinger said.

The bus was towed to an impound yard where it will be inspected to see if any mechanical problems may have contributed to the crash.

The bus driver was the only person on the bus who was not hurt. He has not been arrested, and alcohol is not believed to be a factor in the crash.

Investigators have not determined the exact speed of the bus at the time it went off the roadway, but the scenic highway has sharp curves where the speed limits drop to 35 mph (56 kph), Jobinger said.

The bus is operated by Seven Happiness Tour & Charter, a Burlingame, California-based company, said Charles Wu, who works at the company and answered the phone at its headquarters Sunday. He said the owner would not be available to comment until Monday.

"Most of them (passengers) were Chinese people from the Bay Area," Wu said.

Wu said he had not talked to the bus driver since the crash and had few details about the incident, but said the driver had worked for the company for about six years.

The driver could not be reached for comment.

The tour bus company, which operates six motor coaches and six mini-buses or vans, has not had any crashes in the last 24 months, according to records with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. □

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Venezuela

Continued from front

Maduro, 50, was favored to win, and two hours after polls closed his campaign manager, Jorge Rodriguez, used a news conference to summon supporters to the presidential palace from which Maduro has governed since being sworn in as acting president upon Chavez's death.

Capriles urged supporters in a Tweet not to be "desperate and defeated," saying results were still coming in from across Venezuela.

Maduro's big lead in opinion polls was cut in half over the past two weeks in a country struggling with the legacy of Chavez's management of the world's largest oil reserves.

Millions of Venezuelans were lifted out of poverty under Chavez, but many also believe his government not only squandered, but plundered, much of the \$1 trillion in oil revenues during his tenure.

Venezuelans are afflicted by chronic power outages, crumbling infrastructure, unfinished public works projects, double-digit inflation, food and medicine shortages, and rampant crime. Venezuela has one of the world's highest homicide and kidnapping rates.

"We can't continue to believe in messiahs," said Jose Romero, a 48-year-old industrial engineer who

voted for Capriles in the central city of Valencia. "This country has learned a lot and today we know that one person can't fix everything."

Voting lines seemed considerably lighter than in the October election that Chavez won, when more than 80 percent of the electorate turned out, although government officials said it was due to the improved efficiency of the system. After polls closed there were moments of tension at some voting centers. At Andres Bello high school in central Caracas a band of about 100 Chavistas on motorcycles, many with faces covered with bandanas, harassed opposition activists who wanted to witness the vote count to ensure there was no fraud.

Some of the Chavistas tried to steal phones and cameras from people recording video of the event. The digital audio recorder of an Associated Press reporter was grabbed out of her hand.

Motorcycle-riding Chavistas have on several occasions during the campaign beaten Capriles supporters in the capital, though none apparently seriously enough to require hospitalization.

In the Chavista stronghold of Petare outside Caracas, the Maduro vote was strong. Maria Velasquez, 48, who works in a government soup kitchen that feeds 200 people, said she

was voting for Chavez's man "because that is what my comandante ordered." Reynaldo Ramos, a 60-year-old construction worker, said he "voted for Chavez" before correcting himself and saying he chose Maduro. But he could not seem to get his beloved leader out of his mind.

"We must always vote for Chavez because he always does what's best for the people and we're going to continue on this path," Ramos said. He said the government had helped him get work on the subway system and helps pay his grandchildren's school costs.

The governing United Socialist Party of Venezuela deployed a well-worn get-out-the-vote machine spearheaded by loyal state employees. □



Venezuela's interim President Nicolas Maduro greets supporters as he leaves a polling station after voting in the presidential election in Caracas, Venezuela, Sunday, April 14, 2013.

Associated Press



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Spanish anti-monarchy rally attracts thousands

HAROLD HECKLE
Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Thousands of people demonstrated against the Spanish monarchy Sunday, demanding the return of a democratically elected head of state, another blow for embattled King Juan Carlos. The marchers thronged Puerta del Sol, a central square in the capital, on the 82nd anniversary of the establishment of Spain's last democratically-elected republic, which was overthrown by an army uprising that led to a civil war and the 36-year military dictatorship of Gen. Francisco Franco.

Franco appointed then Prince Juan Carlos as his successor as head of state, a job the royal took over as king upon the dictator's death in 1975.

The monarchy's popularity has slumped in recent months, with the 75-year-old king being criticized for going on a luxurious safari during Spain's financial crisis and a corruption scandal with links to royal family members.

"This monarchy was imposed on us by the dictatorship, therefore we consider it to be illegal," 45-year-old teacher Maria Ayuso said. "Also, we consider it anachronistic to have a non-elected head of state; it's not democratic."

For decades, the king was largely admired for having shepherded Spain from dictatorship to a modern democracy, with many citing his role in adroitly getting the participants in an attempted military coup in February 1981 to stand down peacefully as a high-light in his career.

But things began to go awry when he broke his



Protestors shout slogans and carry republican and communist flags during a protest against monarchy in Madrid, Spain, Sunday, April 14, 2013. Thousands of people were protesting the Spanish monarchy and demanding the return of a democratically-elected head of state, another blow for embattled King Juan Carlos.

Associated Press

hip while on a previously unannounced elephant hunting trip in Botswana even though it was widely known he was president of

the Spanish branch of the World Wildlife Fund. The king had to be flown back to Spain aboard a private jet for hospital treatment.

In an unprecedented act of royal contrition, Juan Carlos apologized, saying as he left the hospital: "I am very sorry. I made a

mistake. It won't happen again."

Matters got worse when the king's daughter, Princess Cristina, was named as an official suspect in an alleged plot to embezzle public money.

The investigation centers on whether the 47-year-old princess' husband, Inaki Urdangarin, and his former business partner took advantage with her knowledge of their royal connections to funnel about 5 million euros (\$6.4 million) in public funds, using companies and an allegedly non-profit institute they ran.

Neither Cristina nor Urdangarin have been charged, but both have been called to testify before an investigating magistrate. Urdangarin has appeared in court twice and the princess has been subpoenaed to attend, pending an appeal.

Cristina's court summons is a first for a member of the king's immediate family. □

Saudi prince backs letting women drive

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal has indicated support of allowing women there to drive.

He says that would help the kingdom's campaign to cut down on the number of foreign workers.

Saudi Arabia follows an ultraconservative interpretation of Islam and bans women from driving. "The question of allowing women to drive in Saudi Arabia will save more than 500,000 jobs in addition to the social and economic benefits," the prince wrote Sunday on his Twitter account.

Thousands of foreign workers have been fired from their jobs and then deported, part of a government campaign against foreigners who illegally reside and work in the kingdom.

Last week King Abdullah gave workers three months to try to legalize their presence. There are more than 8 million foreign workers in Saudi Arabia. □



In this Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2007 file photo, Saudi Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, foreground, delivers a speech as his wife, Princess Amira, looks on, after he received the medal of Great Patron of the French Culture Ministry during a ceremony at the Louvre museum in Paris, France.

Associated Press.

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Investigators probe jet's crash into sea in Bali

FIRDIA LISNAWATI
NINIEK KARMINI
Associated Press

BALI, Indonesia (AP) — Investigators were working to determine what caused a new Lion Air passenger jet to miss the runway and crash into the sea off the Indonesian resort island of Bali, in the expanding budget airline's seventh accident in 11 years.

All 108 people on board survived Saturday's crash, which has renewed questions about how safe it is to fly in Indonesia.

The country has struggled to clean up its poor air safety record while improving oversight.

The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board said Sunday it was sending a team to assist Indonesia's investigation because the Boeing 737-800 that crashed was designed and made in the U.S. The team will include advisers from the Federal Aviation Administration and Boeing. The flight data recorder has been removed from the plane and aviation authorities were planning to tow the aircraft to a beach, said Transportation Ministry spokesman Bambang Ervan. The plane snapped in half as it crashed and came to rest in shallow water near the airport, where divers are searching for the cockpit voice recorder located in the tail.

Wind shear is one of the possible causes being considered in the investigation by Indonesia's National Transportation Safety Committee.

The weather was rainy with clouds at the time of the crash, Lion Air spokesman Edward Sirait said. The pi-

lot and co-pilot have been grounded for health tests and to answer questions for investigators.

Some survivors swam from the wreckage, while others were plucked from the water by rescuers in rubber boats. Dozens suffered injuries, but most had been released from hospitals by Sunday.

"I couldn't wait to land in Bali when the cabin suddenly turned dark.

I heard a sound like an explosion and water was coming in," recalled Irawati, a 60-year-old woman who uses one name, like many Indonesians.

"I heard people shouting frantically: 'The plane crashed! Get out! Get out!' I did not even have the energy to move my body," she said. "I was so weak and frightened, and I was asking a flight attendant for help before I passed out."

Irawati told The Associated Press from her hospital bed that when she regained consciousness, the pilot and co-pilot were putting a life jacket on her and helping her down a rubber ladder. She was then pulled onto a surfboard by rescuers.

She suffered neck injuries. Another survivor, Andi Prasetyo, said there was no warning of any problem.

"The cabin crew had already announced that we would be landing shortly, and I was so excited when I saw the ocean getting closer, but suddenly ... it fell," he said. "I can't believe that the plane actually landed on the sea, and everything changed to dark. It was full of horrific screaming." □



This photo released by Indonesia's National Rescue Team shows rescuers at the crash site of a Lion Air plane in Bali, Indonesia on Saturday, April 13, 2013.

Associated Press

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London School of Economics denounces BBC tactics

GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — One of Britain's leading academic institutions, the London School of Economics, is accusing the BBC of putting students at risk by using them as cover for a covert reporting trip to North Korea.

The school says BBC's decision to send three TV journalists to the secretive communist state in March to shoot a documentary without governmental permission to work there by posing as members of a student trip could have caused grave trouble for the pupils, if the deception had been uncovered by North Korean authorities.

The squabble between two powerful British institutions comes at a time of uncertainty caused by North Korea's bellicose threats to launch a new medium-range missile at its enemies.

It brought more unwelcome attention to the BBC, which has faced sustained criticism for its handling of an investigation into alleged child sex abuse committed by the late Jimmy Savile, long a top BBC talk show host.

The "Panorama" documentary on North Korea based on the eight-day trip in March is set to air Monday night.

The BBC has thus far refused the university's plea to keep it off the air to protect the students from possible retribution if their identities are revealed on the



The name plaque outside the London School of Economics (LSE) in this file photo dated Sept. 3, 2009, in central London.

show. The broadcaster said three students who have asked to be removed from the show will have their images blurred so they cannot be identified.

The trip was not organized by LSE but by a students' society known as the Grimshaw Club. University officials said they did not know about the BBC arrangement and would not have approved it if they had known about BBC's plans. The BBC's John Sweeney, who LSE officials say posed as a post-graduate LSE student, said Sunday it was "entirely wrong" for the university to try to prevent the broadcast. He said all of the students had been told about the potential risk and had agreed to allow the journalists to join the trip, adding that all were over 18 years of age and capable of making their own decisions.

A BBC story about the trip that the network filed online Sunday said Sweeney and a two-person crew that included his wife spent "eight days undercover" in North Korea.

LSE student union general secretary Alex Peters-Day said Sunday that the students were lied to and that at least one of the students on the eight-day trip was not told in advance of the journalists' participation.

"This is a student welfare issue," she told a BBC interviewer. "We don't know what could have happened to those students and, truthfully, neither does the BBC. It's absolutely disgraceful that he (Sweeney) put students in that position. It's incredibly reckless."

She said Sweeney was being "disingenuous" by citing free-speech concerns as justification for putting students in danger.

LSE blamed BBC for not being forthcoming about its reporting plans in North Korea. In the past, journalists have at times been detained for working without authorization in North Korea, where foreign reporting crews usually have to operate under strict governmental supervision.

In an email sent to staff and students, the university complains that the BBC program was produced "using as cover a visit to North Korean which took place from 23-30 March in the name of the Grimshaw Club, a student society at LSE."

BBC News Head of News Programs Ceri Thomas said on a BBC News program Sunday that the students were given the information needed to give informed consent to the increased risk of traveling with journalists who did not have au-

thorization to work in North Korea. He said, however, that the students were told roughly a month before the trip that there would be "a journalist" traveling with them but were later told, once they were en route to North Korea, that there would be three journalists who would be conducting undercover filming for TV. Thomas said the students may have been under the impression that a print journalist, not a three-person TV crew, was going to be involved. He said BBC would air the documentary despite LSE's concerns because of high public interest in the show.

"It is disappointing for us that LSE has chosen to make this public," he said. "We would have kept them out of this altogether. They could have avoided the publicity, and we think that would have lowered the reputational risk."

He said BBC executives felt that if the deception was discovered the students likely would have been deported, but he admitted he could not "categorically" rule out the possibility that their lives might have been at risk.

BBC press officials said senior executives would not discuss the matter but might issue further statements. The BBC's action sparked concerns that the use of a British academic research trip as a cover for a clandestine TV reporting venture might undermine the ability of researchers to operate overseas. □

Lawsuit seeks evacuation of Fukushima children

YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Their demand: The right to live free of radiation. The plaintiffs who started the legal battle: 14 children.

A Japanese appeals court is expected to rule soon on this unusual lawsuit, filed on behalf of the children by their parents and anti-nuclear activists in June 2011 in a district court in Fukushima city, about 60 kilometers (40 miles) west of the crippled nuclear plant that spewed radiation when a massive earthquake and tsunami hit it more than two years ago.

The lawsuit argues that Koriyama, a city of 330,000, should evacuate its children to an area where radiation levels are no higher than natural background levels in the rest of Japan, or about 1 millisievert annual exposure.

In a culture that frowns upon challenging the authorities, the lawsuit highlights the rift in public opinion created by the baffling range in experts' views on the health impact of low dose radiation. Although some experts say there is no need for children to be evacuated, parents are worried about the long-term impact on their children, who are more vulnerable to radiation than adults.

Consuming contaminated food and water are additional risks.

After the Fukushima accident, the world's worst since Chernobyl, Japan set an annual exposure limit of 20 millisieverts for determining whether people can live in an area or not. The average radiation for Koriyama is far below this cutoff point, but some "hot spots" around the city are above that level.

"This is the level at which there are no major effects on health and people can live there," said Keita Kawamori, an official with the Japanese Cabinet Office. "Academic experts decided this was the safe level."

A prominent medical doctor in charge of health safety in Fukushima has re-

peatedly urged calm, noting damage is measurable only at annual exposure of 100 millisieverts, or 100 times the normal level, and higher.

A lower court rejected the lawsuit's demands in a December 2011 decision, saying radiation had not reached the 100-millisievert cutoff. The International Commission on Radiological Protection, the academic organization on health and radiation, says risks decline with a drop exposure, but does not believe there is a cutoff below which there is no risk.

An appeal filed is still before Sendai High Court in nearby Miyagi Prefecture more than a year later.

After the 1986 Chernobyl disaster, which emitted more radiation than the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, the Soviet government made it a priority to evacuate women and children from within a 30-kilometer (20-mile) radius of the plant, bigger than the 20-kilometer (12-mile) no-go zone around the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant.

The number of children behind the original lawsuit dwindled to 10 for the appeal, and is now down to one as families left the prefecture voluntarily or the children grew older. Legally in Japan, a city has responsibility for children only through junior high, since high school is not compulsory.

Toshio Yanagihara, one of the lawyers, criticized the government as appearing more worried about a population exodus than in saving the children.

"I don't understand why an economic power like Japan won't evacuate the children — something even the fascist government did during World War II," he said, referring to the mass evacuation of children during the 1940s to avoid air bombings. "This is child abuse."

After Chernobyl, thousands of children got thyroid cancer. Some medical experts say leukemia, heart failure and other diseases that followed may be linked to radiation. □



In this March 24, 2011 file photo, a young evacuee is screened at a shelter for leaked radiation from the tsunami-ravaged Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant in Fukushima prefecture, Japan.

Associated Press



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Israel at 65: Success still plagued by uncertainty

ARON HELLER

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — In 65 years, Israel has surpassed the dreams of its founders, emerging as the Middle East's strongest military force, a global high-tech powerhouse and a prosperous homeland for the Jewish people.

Yet it remains a divided society, and its most intractable problem — peace with its Arab neighbors — has yet to be resolved.

On the eve of the 65th anniversary of its creation, the Jewish renaissance in the Holy Land remains a work in progress.

Dominating the short term is Iran's nuclear program, which Israel believes is aimed at developing an atomic weapon that could be used against the Jewish state, despite Iranian denials. Unrest along Israel's borders is equally worrisome.

Over the longer term, reaching peace with the Palestinians remains elusive, with the sides unable to agree even on how to restart negotiations. Palestinians consider creation of Israel a catastrophe that caused a stubborn refugee problem.

The 46-year occupation of Palestinian territories also ignites domestic and international tensions. Without a partition, Arabs could one day outnumber Jews, threatening Israel's democratic nature.

Israel began observing its annual Memorial Day on Sunday evening, honoring fallen soldiers and victims of militant attacks. At 8 p.m., air raid sirens sounded nationwide to mark a minute of silence. A two-minute siren was set for Monday morning.

At sundown Monday, the country abruptly shifts its mood to mark its 65th Independence Day with fireworks, military processions and picnics. The transformation from grief to joy is an annual ritual meant to show the link between the sacrifices and the accomplishments.

"Today there are also



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attends the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, Israel, Sunday April 14, 2013. On Sunday Israel marks annual memorial day remembering victims of conflict, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu opening the ceremony at Jerusalem's ammunition hill.

Associated Press



In this May 15, 1948 file photo, David Ben-Gurion, Israel's New Premier, stands with an Israeli official who holds the signed document which proclaims the Establishment of the Jewish State of Israel.

Associated Press

those who rise up against us and threaten to destroy us. They did not succeed in the past, and they will never succeed," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a Memorial Day ceremony Sunday. Netanyahu's older brother, Yonatan, was killed in a military operation in 1976.

Israel declared independence on May 14, 1948, marking the date each year on the Hebrew calendar. Since then, it has been in a constant state of conflict with its neighbors, most recently eight days of exchanges last November with Palestinian militants firing rockets from the Gaza Strip. It has signed peace treaties with just two Arab nations, Egypt and Jordan. Yet the country is thriving in other ways. It has weath-



An Israeli soldiers prepares to place an Israeli flag with a black ribbon and flowers on the graves of fallen soldiers at the Kiryat Shaul Military Cemetery in Tel Aviv, Israel, Sunday, April 14, 2013.

Associated Press

economy. As a "startup nation," it has pioneered breakthroughs, including Wi-Fi technology, the computer firewall and instant messaging. In the past decade, Israeli scientists have won six Nobel prizes in chemistry and economics. It has absorbed immigrants from more than 100 countries to host the world's largest Jewish population, evolving from a largely agrarian backwater to consistently rank high in measures of standard of living. Israel has given the world international supermodels, and its war history



Rachel Falah the widow of Abraham Falah, who was killed in the 1967 Mideast War reads from a holy book as she sits with their son next to his grave at the Kiryat Shaul Military Cemetery in Tel Aviv, Israel, Sunday, April 14, 2013.

Associated Press

ered the global financial crisis better than most, with unemployment below 7 percent and a growing

has inspired Oscar-nominated films and a TV series that was adapted into "Homeland," the award-

winning American show. "The state of Israel is truly a fantastic success story, perhaps among the greatest success stories of the 20th century," said Tom Segev, an Israeli author and historian. "There's an Israeli culture, a renewal of the Hebrew language. The most amazing thing is that we now have a third generation of Israelis for whom the country is a given. 'Israeliness' has become something that we take for granted."

On the other hand, Segev noted that the country is still grappling with the same basic issue that plagued it in 1948 — its relations with the Palestinians.

Israel still does not have internationally recognized borders, and remains in control of about 2.5 million Arabs living in the West Bank and east Jerusalem. Israel captured the areas, along with the Gaza Strip, in the 1967 Mideast war, withdrawing from Gaza in 2005. The Palestinians claim all three territories for a future state.

"We haven't been able to solve this and we may not be able to solve it all," Segev said. "Most Israelis look at the Palestinian issue as a military problem and not a political problem. As long as it is quiet and there is no terror, we think everything is fine."

Israelis argue that the Palestinians have rejected generous peace offers, a claim the Palestinians reject, pointing to Israel's construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem as a sign of bad faith.

Nahum Barnea, a veteran newspaper columnist, said that even if Israel can resolve its conflict with the Palestinians, its place in the heart of the Muslim world will never be certain.

"The occupation (of the West Bank) is an open wound. But even if the occupation were to miraculously end, the country's relations with the rest of the world would not suddenly be solved," he said. "Our struggle is not behind us. □"



Rotaryclub Rijswijk-Ypenburg and FDC with budget course for single and young mothers



ORANJESTAD - Rotary Club Rijswijk-Ypenburg with Fundacion Desaroyo Comunitario (FDC) held a course on budget for single and young mothers.

During the course they have learn how the best way to handle their money is, and don't have to make unnecessary expends. Not only have they taught them how to make a list of their income or expenses, but also how to teach their children to save and not to buy unnecessary things.

The organization of Rotary Club wanted to help single and young mothers to improve themselves. Some of the members want Fundacion Desaroyo Comunitario to keep growing and keep helping others.

The participants enjoyed the course. One of the mothers thought that this course can help many more people in the future. Members of the organization were interested in all the works the FDC does and what their goals. They thanked the mothers and members of FDC who was present for their time and for the opportunity that they received to teach others about how to handle their budget better.



Aruba Bank opens its Customer Service Center at Super Food Plaza

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ORANJESTAD, Aruba - April 12th 2013: Aruba Bank announced the opening of its Customer Service Center at Super Food Plaza. The official opening was affected by Marcelline Richardson, Aruba Bank Managing Director, and Jack Bult, representing Super Food. The Aruba Bank Customer Service Center is designed to offer select services and products by Aruba Bank, at flexible hours and in total conve-



nience. The services offered at the new Service Center are the following: From Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm, and on Saturday from 9:00am to 1:00pm. For cash transactions, patrons may stop by any other Aruba Bank branch during weekday office hours, and on Saturdays, the Aruba Bank branch in Camacuri, is available from 9:00am to 1:00pm. To celebrate the opening, Aruba Bank will treat all Customer Service Center visitors with special care, and they will also receive a gift. Aruba Bank's service representatives are ready to serve clients at the Customer Service Center at Super Food Plaza, as of today.

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TEAM ARUBA TOPS XPS FIELD, EARNS FIRST EVER #1 QUALIFYING SPOT

VALDOSTA, Ga. April 13, 2013: A strong list of entrants pulled into South Georgia Motorsports Park for the ADRL Georgia Drags VII. Former champions, notable top ten competitors and rising stars were all vying for the number one qualifying spot in Extreme Pro Stock.

Team Aruba was among these competitors and quickly set the pace for the weekend. In their first run down the track Trevor Eman and team took their Jerry Haas Mustang, powered by Jon Kaase Engines, to the number one spot with a 4.063 at 177.44MPH. That number was good enough to keep them on top throughout all three rounds of qualifying. Rightfully proud of their accomplishments, Trevor Eman is elated going into Sunday's eliminations:



"This is a huge milestone for us," told the Aruban native. "For all the years we've been racing, to finally achieve a number

one is incredible. Hopefully, we can carry it through into eliminations."

At their first event of the

season, the Aruba.com/Alltel Wireless Mustang made it to the semifinals. Building upon that consistency with the pole position this week-

end, Team Aruba has a new found confidence.

"We have a great team," Eman added. "I couldn't be happier with our progress, and I'm looking forward to where we'll go from here."

It's a good weekend for Aruba in many ways, because my cousin, Anouk Eman, just won Gold in the U.S. National Synchronized Swimming Championship in Greensboro, N.C. We're extremely proud of her and send huge congratulations her way! Hopefully this good fortune for Aruban sports continues."

Team Aruba will face off against number 16 qualifier, Scott Hintz in round one. Get round by round results from Team Aruba by following them on Facebook and Twitter. □



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John Isner returns a shot against Nicolas Almagro, of Spain, in the second set of their championship tennis match at the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship, Sunday, April 14, 2013, in Houston.

Associated Press

Isner wins U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship

MICHAEL A. LUTZ
Associated Press

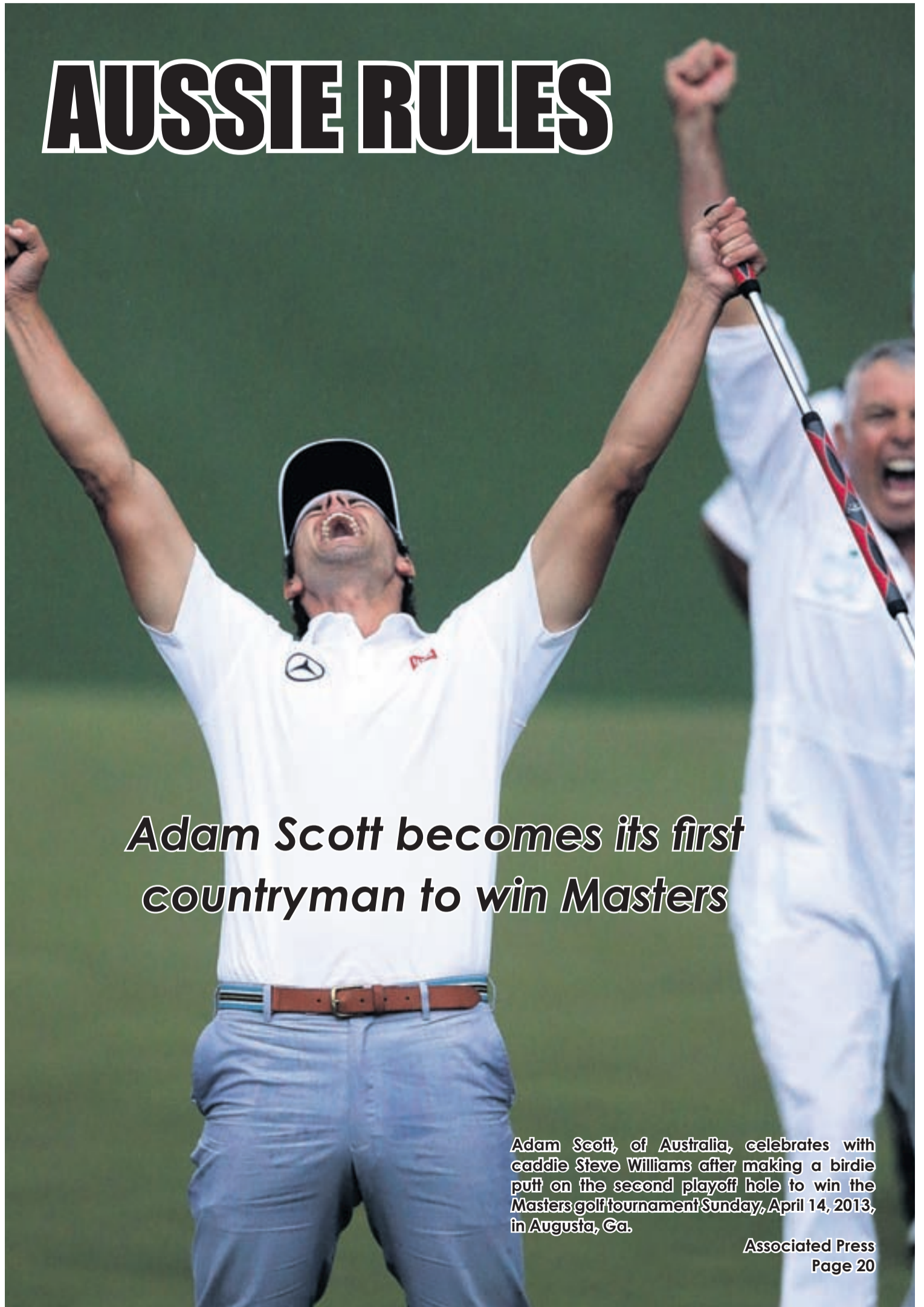
HOUSTON (AP) — American John Isner beat Argentina's Nicolas Almagro 6-3, 7-5 in the final of the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship on Sunday.

Isner won his first tournament of the year and the sixth of his career. He had seven aces in the match — including two at more than 140 mph in the 10th game to hold serve — and a record 64 for the tournament.

The players were on serve in the second set until Almagro was broken in the 11th game at the fourth break point on Isner's forehand that landed in front of Almagro and out of his reach. Almagro double-faulted twice in the game. Isner then served for the match in the 12th game. He added his final ace bringing the final to match point and Almagro popped up Isner's final serve to end the match.

Isner is the first American to appear in an ATP Tour final this year. □

AUSSIE RULES



Adam Scott becomes its first countryman to win Masters

Adam Scott, of Australia, celebrates with caddy Steve Williams after making a birdie putt on the second playoff hole to win the Masters golf tournament Sunday, April 14, 2013, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press
Page 20

Buchholz no-hit bid ends in 8th, Sox top Rays 5-0

The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Clay Buchholz didn't allow a hit until Kelly Johnson's broken-bat single leading off the eighth inning, helping the Boston Red Sox beat the Tampa Bay Rays 5-0 on Sunday.

AL Capsules Buchholz, who threw a no-hitter in just his second career start in 2007, allowed two hits and four walks in eight innings and struck out a career-high 11. Johnson singled with an 0-1 count on Buchholz's 101st pitch, sending the ball over first baseman Mike Napoli while the top part of the bat landed near the front edge of the infield between first and second.

Buchholz (3-0) lowered his ERA to 0.41, allowing one earned run in 22 innings He



Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Clay Buchholz picks up the broken bat of Tampa Bay Rays' Kelly Johnson after Johnson got the first hit of the game off of Buchholz during the eighth inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston Sunday April 14, 2013.

Associated Press

left after 109 pitches, and Andrew Miller finished with a one-hit ninth.

Alex Cobb (1-1) allowed four runs — three earned — and seven hits in 6 2-3 innings, and Tampa Bay lost for the fifth time in six games. The Rays have eight runs in their last six games.

TIGERS 10, ATHLETICS 1

OAKLAND, California (AP) — Austin Jackson had four hits, homered and drove in three runs, and Torii Hunter added two doubles and a triple as the Tigers routed the Athletics.

Miguel Cabrera drove in two runs for the Tigers, who had 14 hits and won for the third time in four games. The first eight batters in the Tigers batting order had at least one hit, and seven players drove in runs.

Anibal Sanchez (2-0) overcame a sluggish start to pitch seven innings, winning his second straight outing and giving Detroit's bullpen a needed rest. He allowed one run, three hits and four walks, matching his season-high of eight strikeouts.

Jarrod Parker (0-2), who lost to Detroit in Games 1 and 5 of last year's AL division series, gave up a career-high eight runs and nine hits in 3 1-3 innings.

WHITE SOX 3, INDIANS 1

CLEVELAND (AP) — Jake Peavy struck out 11 in sev-

en innings, Paul Konerko homered and the Chicago White Sox broke a five-game losing streak.

The White Sox went into the game as the majors' only winless team on the road. Chicago was swept three games in Washington before dropping the first two against the Indians.

Peavy (2-1) gave up a home run to Michael Bourn on his first pitch of the game but held the Indians to five hits overall and didn't walk a batter. Addison Reed pitched the ninth for his fourth save, retiring Jason Giambi with a runner on to end the game.

Konerko's two-run homer ruined a solid effort from Brett Myers (0-2), who took a shutout into the sixth.

ROYALS 3, BLUE JAYS 2

KANSAS CITY (AP) — Alex Gordon drove home Chris Getz with a single in the ninth inning as the Royals beat the Blue Jays to avoid a series sweep.

The Royals played from behind nearly the entire way, but broke through when Getz doubled off Blue Jays reliever Darren Oliver (0-1) with one out in the ninth. Gordon swatted the first pitch he saw from Oliver into the outfield, and Getz slid home easily ahead of the tag.

Kelvin Herrera (1-0) pitched a perfect eighth inning for the Royals, who got eight strong innings from Ervin Santana to remain within striking distance.

Edwin Encarnacion homered and drove in both runs for the Blue Jays.

ANGELS 4, ASTROS 1

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — Mike Trout hit his first home run of the season and Josh Hamilton also connected, leading C.J. Wilson and the Angels over Houston. Trout put the Angels ahead for good with his solo homer in the third inning. He also doubled and scored three times.

Hamilton tripled and singled before hitting his second homer of the year, a two-run drive in the eighth. Wilson (1-0) allowed one run and five hits in six innings. He struck out three and walked four. □

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NBA Capsules

Heat set franchise home mark, top Bulls 105-93

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — MIAMI (AP) — LeBron James scored 24 points and Dwyane Wade added 22 as the Miami Heat set a club record for home wins in a season, beating the Chicago Bulls 105-93 on Sunday.

Mario Chalmers and Chris Andersen each scored 15 for Miami, which improved to 36-4 at home — topping the 35-6 mark by the 2004-05 Heat.

Miami held Chicago without a 2-point basket for the first 16 minutes of the second half, with the Bulls relying almost exclusively on 3-pointers.

Carlos Boozer had 16 points and 20 rebounds for the Bulls, who snapped Miami's 27-game winning streak last month. Chicago finished with 29 field goals and 30 fouls, allowing the Heat to shoot a season-high 41 free throws.

The loss keeps Chicago in the No. 6 spot in the Eastern Conference. Miami has wrapped up home-court advantage throughout the playoffs.

NUGGETS 118, TRAIL BLAZERS 109

DENVER (AP) — Andre Iguodala scored 28 points as Denver beat short-handed Portland to set an NBA franchise record with its 55th win.

Rookie Evan Fournier added 24 points for the Nuggets, who also extended their franchise-best winning streak at home to 22 straight to move a game ahead of the Los Angeles Clippers and Memphis for the third seed in the West.

The Nuggets went 54-28 in both 1987-88 and 2008-09, when they reached the

conference finals. They are 37-3 at home — also a team best since joining the NBA 37 years ago.

Rookie Damian Lillard led Portland with 30 points.

KNICKS 90, PACERS 80

NEW YORK (AP) — Carmelo Anthony scored 25 points and New York clinched the No. 2 seed in the East with a victory over Indiana — the Knicks' 15th win in the last 16 games.

Chris Copeland added 20 points and J.R. Smith had 15 for the Knicks, who will host seventh-seeded Boston next weekend. New York is guaranteed the home-court advantage for the first two rounds of the playoffs after finishing a distant second to Miami in the conference.

Lance Stephenson scored 22 points and West had 17 points and eight rebounds for the Pacers, who came into the game with a chance to catch the Knicks for second but settled for the No. 3 seed after fourth-place Brooklyn lost at Toronto.

RAPTORS 93, NETS 87

TORONTO (AP) — DeMar DeRozan scored 36 points, Rudy Gay had 26 points and 10 rebounds and Toronto never trailed in beating Brooklyn for its third straight victory.

Amir Johnson had 10 points and nine rebounds for the Raptors, who hadn't won three straight since a five-game winning streak from Feb. 8 to 19.

DeRozan scored 14 in the fourth quarter and finished 9-for-9 at the free throw line, converting a vital pair in the final 15 seconds.

Deron Williams scored 30 points, Brook Lopez had 16 and Andray Blatche 15 for the Nets, who will be the No. 4 seed in the East.

76ERS 91, CAVALIERS 77

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Dorell Wright scored 15 points and Thaddeus Young had 14 points and nine rebounds to lead Philadelphia over Cleveland.

Spencer Hawes and Jrue Holiday each added 14 points for the 76ers, who raced to a 19-point lead in the first half and sent the Cavaliers to their fourth straight loss.

Tristan Thompson had 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Cavaliers. Kevin Jones had 11 points and 10 rebounds, while All-Star guard Kyrie Irving had only four points in 18 minutes.

The Sixers finished 23-18 at home and are 33-47 overall a year after winning 35 games and a round in the playoffs during the lockout-shortened season. □



Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) reacts after a play during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Chicago Bulls in Miami, Sunday, April 14, 2013. The Heat won 105-93.

Associated Press

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Scott beats Cabrera in a playoff at Augusta

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) —

Adam Scott finished the job this time, and put an end to more than a half-century of Australian misery at the Masters.

With the two biggest putts of his career, Scott holed a 20-footer for birdie on the 18th hole of regulation that put him into a playoff with Angel Cabrera, and then won his first major championship Sunday with a 12-footer for birdie on the second extra hole.

"We like to think we're the best at everything. Golf is a big sport at home, and this is the one thing in golf we hadn't been able to achieve," Scott said. "It's amazing that it's my destiny to be the first Australian to win. It's incredible."

Scott leaned back and thrust his arms in the air after the putt dropped on the 10th hole, a celebration for all of Australia and personal redemption for himself.

It was only last summer when Scott threw away the British Open by making bogey on his last four holes to lose by one shot to Ernie Els. The 32-year-old handled that crushing defeat with dignity and pledged to finish stronger given another chance. "Next time — I'm sure there will be a next time — I can do a better job of it," he said that day.

Scott was close to perfect, and he had to be with Cabrera delivering some brilliance of his own.

Moments after Scott made his 20-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole for a 3-under 69 to take a one-shot lead — "C'mon, Aussie!" he screamed — Cabrera answered with an approach that plopped down 3 feet from the cup, one of the greatest shots under the circumstances. That gave him an easy birdie and a 2-under 70. They finished at 9-under 279.

They both chipped close for par on the 18th in the first playoff hole, and Cabrera's 15-foot birdie putt on the 10th grazed the right side of the cup.



Adam Scott, of Australia, shows off his green jacket after winning the Masters golf tournament Sunday, April 14, 2013, in Augusta, Ga.



Angel Cabrera, right, reacts with his son Angel Cabrera Jr., who caddies for him, after he almost chipped in for birdie on the first hole of a playoff during the Masters golf tournament, Sunday, April 14, 2013, in Augusta. Cabrera was defeated by Adam Scott in the playoff.

With his long putter anchored against his chest, Scott's putt was true all the way. The Masters had been the only major that never had a champion use a long putter. Scott's win means four of the last six major champions used a putter pressed against their belly or chest, a stroke that might be banned in 2016. What mattered more to Scott was that the Masters had been the only major an Australian had never won. He was among dozens of golfers who routinely rose in the early hours of Monday morning for the telecast,

only to watch a horror show. The leading character was Greg Norman, who had four good chances to win, none better than when he blew a six-shot lead on the last day to Nick Faldo in 1996.

There was Jim Ferrier in 1952 and Bruce Crampton 20 years later. Scott and Jason Day tied for second just two years ago. Norman, though, was the face of Aussie failures at the Masters, and Scott paid him tribute in Butler Cabin before he slipped on that beautiful green jacket.

"Australian is a proud

sporting nation, and this is one notch in the belt we never got," Scott said. "It's amazing that it came down to me today. But there's one guy who inspired a nation of golfers, and that's Greg Norman. He's been incredible to me and all the great golfers. Part of this belongs to him." Scott was just as gracious in victory as he was in defeat last summer at Royal Lytham & St. Annes. He and Cabrera flashed a thumbs-up to each other after their shots into the 10th hole in the playoff, and they walked off the 10th green with their arms around each other when it was over.

"Such is golf," Cabrera said. "Adam is a good winner." It was a riveting conclusion to a week filled with some awkward moments. There was the one-shot penalty called against 14-year-old Guan Tianlang that nearly kept the Chinese teen from becoming the youngest player to make the cut. There was the illegal drop by Tiger Woods, who was given a two-shot penalty over questions and confusion about why he was not disqualified for signing an incorrect card. And at the end, there was shot-making at its finest.

Scott didn't make a bogey after the first hole, and he really didn't miss a shot the rest of the day on a rainy Sunday at Augusta. He just couldn't get a putt to fall until it really mattered. Then, he made two of them.

Day closed with a 70, his second close call at the Masters in three years. This one hurt far more because he had a two-shot lead when he stepped to the 16th tee.

He ran off three bold birdies down the stretch — getting up-and-down from the back bunker on the 13th, a 10-foot putt on the 14th, and capitalizing on a break at No. 15 when his drive ricocheted out of the trees into the fairways, allowing him to reach the green in two.

His lead vanished just as quickly, however. Day chose to hit putter from behind the 16th green, came up 5 feet short and missed the par putt. He hit into a bunker on the 17th for another bogey.

"I think the pressure got to me a little bit," Day said.

The tournament unfolded behind him, and it turned out to be quite a show.

Scott hit the ball beautifully the entire day and watched one putt after another turn away from the hole. But he also received perhaps the biggest break of the tournament when his shot into the par-5 13th spun back off the green and was headed down the slope into the tributary of Rae's Creek when it suddenly stopped, a blessing from a day spent in the rain. He got up-and-down for birdie, and he two-putted for birdie on the 15th.

Cabrera wasn't so fortunate. Playing in the group behind, his approach hit the bank and tumbled down into the water, leading to a bogey that cost him the lead. Cabrera answered with a 15-foot birdie putt on the 16th, however, that gave him a share of the lead.

And then came a one-two punch of birdies. For the fans who endured a soggy final round, this made up for it. □

Associated Press

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Braves beat Nats for 9th win in row

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justin Upton and Andrelton Simmons homered to help the Atlanta Braves win their ninth in row as Paul Maholm beat the Washington Nationals 9-0 Sunday to complete a three-game sweep.

NL Capsules Upton hit his seventh home run of the season.

Chris Johnson had four hits and two RBIs for the Braves, who took a 7-0 lead in the third inning against Gio Gonzalez (1-1).

In sweeping their NL East rivals and compiling the best record in the major leagues, Atlanta (11-1) has outscored the opposition 62-23.

Washington has lost seven straight to Atlanta since last year.

Maholm (3-0) allowed four

hits in 7 2-3 innings. He has not permitted a run this season in 20 1-3 innings over three starts.

PHILLIES 2, MARLINS 1

MIAMI (AP) — Roy Halladay earned his 200th career victory, bouncing back from consecutive poor outings to pitch eight innings and help the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Miami Marlins 2-1.

Laynce Nix broke a 1-all tie with his second pinch-hit homer of the season in the ninth. Halladay (1-2) allowed five hits, walked one and lowered his ERA from 14.73 to 7.63. He's the 109th pitcher to reach the 200-win milestone, and the first to do so in a Phillies uniform since Hall of Famer Steve Carlton in 1978.

Nix batted for Halladay with one out in the ninth and homered into the upper deck in right field off



Atlanta Braves' Andrelton Simmons hits a three-run home run during the third inning of a baseball game against the Washington Nationals at Nationals Park, Sunday, April 14, 2013, in Washington. Associated Press

Jon Rauch (0-2).

Jonathan Papelbon pitched around a leadoff walk in the ninth for his second save.

DIAMONDBACKS 1, DODGERS 0

PHOENIX (AP) — Paul Goldschmidt hit a game-winning single off Josh Beckett with one out in the ninth inning, lifting the Arizona Diamondbacks over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Diamondbacks starter Trevor Cahill pitched six-hit ball for 7 1-3 innings. J.J. Putz (1-0) walked one in the ninth. Beckett (0-2) gave up a one-out double to A.J. Pollock in the ninth. Beckett ran the count to 3-0 before intentionally walking Miguel Montero, and Goldschmidt singled to right field.

ROCKIES 2, PADRES 1

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Todd Helton had a pinch-hit,

two-run homer in the seventh inning and Jorge De La Rosa and three relievers combined on a two-hitter to carry the Colorado Rockies over San Diego.

Colorado also swept San Diego at Coors Field last weekend.

Helton's homer off Dale Thayer (0-1) broke a scoreless tie. It was Helton's first homer this season and his third career pinch homer. □

Novak Djokovic unsure if he'll play at Monte Carlo

JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

MONACO (AP) — Top-ranked Novak Djokovic is unsure whether he will play at the Monte Carlo Masters this week, even though he is optimistic his right ankle injury is healing fast.

The Serb twisted his ankle last Sunday on Davis Cup quarterfinal duty against the United States. Tests showed that the damage is not as serious as he feared and he has been training with his coach for the past three days ahead of his scheduled second-round match on Wednesday.

But Djokovic, who lost to eight-time champion Rafael Nadal in straight sets in last year's final, will not take any risks.

"I can't 100 percent guarantee that I'll be on the court on Wednesday,"

Djokovic said on Sunday. "I still have to be realistic and see if on some practices in the next few days I push myself to the limit, if I'm going to have any discomfort."

Djokovic will only play if he thinks he can challenge properly.

"It's a very strong tournament and I don't think there is any room for compromise," he said. "To compete at such a high level I need to be at 100 percent. I know there is a lot of people who expect me to be there and want me to be there — I want myself to be there more than anybody." He was boosted by test results, having initially feared his clay-court season would be seriously damaged leading up the French Open, which begins next month.

"Any bigger damage could indicate a longer period of recovery and no tennis," he said. "But being on the court the last three days for me is already a great sign."

He potentially faces either Mikhail Youzhny or Daniel Gimeno-Traver on Wednesday, and then a possible quarterfinal against fifth-seeded Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina.

"I'll decide on Tuesday at the latest," he said. "I can't give you a percentage but I'm more optimistic than I was at the beginning of the week, that's for sure."

Djokovic was hurt during his win against Sam Querrey as he lifted Serbia to an insurmountable 3-1 lead.

Having led Serbia to victory in 2010, Djokovic is fully committed to Davis Cup but thinks the scheduling and format must change.

"This is the only official team competition we have in sport and that is the reason why it has a unique place in our career," he said. "Unfortunately it comes at a very bad timing. Right after Australia, right after US Open, right after Miami. It comes after a very long period of tournaments, and most of the top players reach the final stages of those tournaments."

Djokovic thinks a set period of the year should be cleared for it.

"One of my ideas is to have two weeks say, once per year, or once every two years, at least for the world group, that can gather 16 teams," he said. "Then everybody competes, you know, during those two weeks and then you have the final four or something like that."

Nadal, meanwhile, is bidding for ninth straight Monte Carlo title.

The Spaniard has reached four consecutive finals since returning from a seven-month injury layoff, winning three.

After losing to Horacio Zeballos in the final at Vina del Mar, Chile, Nadal won clay-court titles at Sao Paulo, Brazil and Acapulco, Mexico, before beating Del Potro on hard courts in the BNP Paribas Open final to win a record 22nd Masters title. Seeded third, Nadal has a 44-1 record at Monte Carlo, winning 42 consecutive matches and has not lost here since a third-round defeat to Guillermo Coria in 2003. He missed the 2004 tournament through injury. He could possibly face second-ranked Andy Murray in the semifinals. □

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China WHO chief: Beijing H7N9 case not surprising

BEIJING (AP) — A World Health Organization official said Sunday that it wasn't surprising that a new strain of bird flu has spread to China's capital after sickening dozens in the eastern part of the country.

Up until Saturday when Beijing officials reported the capital's first case of H7N9, all cases had been in Shanghai and other eastern China areas.

On Sunday, the first two cases were reported in central Henan province, which is next to Beijing.

It's not the case that everyone confirmed infected with H7N9 was "clustered in one small area with the same source of exposure," said Michael



The head of the World Health Organization's office in China Michael O' Leary speaks to journalists outside the WHO office in Beijing Sunday, April 14, 2013.

Associated Press

O'Leary, head of WHO's office in China.

"So we've been expecting new cases to occur ...

Furthermore, we still expect that there will be other cases."

A 7-year-old girl was Beijing's first confirmed case of H7N9, which has now sickened 51 people, of whom 11 died.

Health officials believe the virus that was first spotted in humans last month is spreading through direct contact with infected fowl. O'Leary said "the good news" was that there was still no evidence that humans had passed on the virus to other humans.

"As far as we know, all the cases are individually infected in a sporadic and not connected way," he said, adding that the source of infection is still being investigated.

The girl, whose parents are in the live poultry trade, was admitted to a hospital Thursday with symptoms of fever, sore throat, coughing and headache, the Beijing Health Bureau said. O'Leary said early treatment can be effective, as demonstrated by the girl who was recovering in hospital and in stable condi-

tion. In the only other reported cases outside of eastern China, health officials in Henan province announced that tests on two men Thursday revealed they had the virus.

They said a 34-year-old restaurant chef who had displayed flu symptoms for about a week was in critical condition in hospital, while a 65-year-old farmer who was in frequent contact with poultry was in stable condition after receiving treatment.

They said 19 people who had been in close contact with the two men had not shown any flu symptoms.

China has been more open in its response to the new virus than it was a decade ago with an outbreak of SARS, when authorities were highly criticized for not releasing information. □

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Polio vaccine developer Koprowski dies

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Dr. Hilary Koprowski, the Polish-born researcher who developed the first successful oral vaccination for polio, died this week at his Philadelphia home. He was 96. Although not as well-known as fellow researchers Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin, Koprowski in 1950 became the first to show it was possible to vaccinate against polio, the crippling and sometimes fatal disease that's now all but eradicated. Koprowski's son, Christopher, said Saturday his father liked the scientific recognition his work received without the celebrity of Salk and Sabin. "He enjoyed not having his scientific work disrupted," said Christopher Koprowski. "Not that he was a modest individual, mind you."

Christopher Koprowski said his father had been sick for several months before dying Thursday in the same home he'd lived in since 1957. Hilary Koprowski self-administered the live-virus oral vaccine he developed before the 1950 trial — about two years before Salk's injectable version using a dead form of the virus began testing with the backing of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, now the March of Dimes. Sabin, who Koprowski's son said sometimes collaborated with his father, was the first to get the more effective oral version, which didn't require boosters, licensed for use in the U.S. Koprowski went on to be the director of The Wistar Institute in Philadelphia from 1957 to 1991.



This Feb. 1961 file photo shows Dr. Hilary Koprowski. Dr. Hilary Koprowski, a pioneering virologist who developed the first successful oral vaccination for polio, died Thursday, April 11, 2013 at his suburban Philadelphia home. He was 96.

Associated Press

Under his leadership, the independent research institution developed a rubella vaccine that helped eradicate the disease in much of the world, Wistar officials said. □

NASA's Wallops Island prepares for the spotlight

BROCK VERGAKIS

Associated Press

WALLOPS ISLAND, Virginia

(AP) — On one of Virginia's small barrier islands, a NASA facility that operates in relative obscurity outside scientific circles is preparing to be thrust into the spotlight.

On Wednesday, Orbital Sciences Corp. plans to conduct the first test launch of its Antares rocket under a NASA program in which private companies deliver supplies to the International Space Station. If all goes as planned, the unmanned rocket's practice payload will be vaulted into orbit from Wallops Island before burning up in the atmosphere on its return to Earth several months later.

The goal of the launch isn't to connect with the space station, but to make sure the rocket works and that a simulated version of a cargo ship that will dock with the space station on future launches separates into orbit. Orbital officials say that should occur about 10 minutes after liftoff.

In that short period of time, Wallops Island will transition from a little-known launch pad for small research rockets to a major player in the U.S. space program.

The Wallops Flight Facility on Virginia's rural Eastern Shore is small in comparison to major NASA centers like those in Florida, California and Texas. The site is near Maryland and just south of Chincoteague Island, which attracts thousands of tourists each summer for an annual wild pony swim made famous by the 1947 novel "Misty of Chincoteague." The Eastern Shore is dominated by forests and farmland, and Wallops Island's isolated nature, with marshland to its west and the Atlantic Ocean to its east, has also made it home to a Navy surface warfare combat center.

Those who work at Wallops Island joke that even people living on the Eastern Shore are surprised to learn about rocket launches there.



In fact, more than 16,000 rockets have been launched from Wallops Island since 1945, but none has drawn the attention of Antares. Most of the launches are suborbital and focus on educational and research programs.

"The real transformation here at Wallops is we've always been kind of a research facility," said William Wrobel, the facility's director. "So this transition is really kind of into an operational phase, where we're going to be doing kind of regular flights out of here to the space station."

A successful launch would pave the way for Dulles-based Orbital to demonstrate that it can connect its unmanned Cygnus cargo ship with the space station this summer. If that's successful, Orbital would launch the first of eight resupply missions from the island in the fall under a \$1.9 billion NASA contract.

Orbital has been in the commercial space business for more than 30 years, producing small satellites and rockets for NASA and the military. Antares marks the company's first venture in medium-size rockets, which can carry twice as much of a payload as other rockets it produces.

The space station delivery contract was awarded in

2008, and the company had originally hoped to launch in 2011, when NASA retired its shuttle program. In a partnership with Orbital and NASA, the Virginia Commercial Spaceflight Authority built a \$120 million liquid fuel launch pad at Wallops specifically for this type of mission. But there were numerous delays, and the state agency didn't turn over the launch pad to Orbital until October.

That further put Orbital behind California-based competitor SpaceX, the second private company working with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on cargo resupply missions. NASA chose SpaceX to develop a commercial spaceship in 2006, and it docked with the space station for the first time in 2012.

SpaceX's Dragon capsule returns to Earth after missions with science experiments and old station equipment, but Orbital's Cygnus is filled with trash and burns up in the atmosphere upon re-entry.

"The fact is, there is not that much cargo valuable enough to warrant the additional cost that's inevitable when you try to return something," Orbital spokesman Barron Beneski said. "It's a demand ques-

tion. How much return cargo is there and does NASA need to order a Cygnus that can return cargo in addition to what the SpaceX capsule does?"

Landing Orbital's business was seen as a major victory for Virginia over Florida, which has a storied space history as the former home of U.S. manned spaceflight.

But Beneski said Wallops Island had several advantages over Florida, including Wallops Island is a smaller facility and not as busy, he said.

"The Wallops range for flights like this is not very

congested. It's not that busy with other satellites going to orbit because sometimes you can have schedules overlap with other missions," he said. "Down in Florida, they launch a lot of high-value national priority missions, so potentially you can get bumped on the schedule, and of course, that would cost money."

Virginia officials say the publicity associated with Antares should help recruit other space and technology companies to do business on Wallops Island, particularly those interested in launching satellites. □



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Chevron slapped with violation notice over spill

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - State regulators have slapped Chevron with a violation notice over a March fuel spill near a northern Utah bird refuge.

The Utah Division of Water Quality is asking Chevron to provide a report on cleanup operations and a response plan for the pipeline rupture that leaked about 21,000 gallons of diesel fuel. The split in the pipeline running between Salt Lake City and Spokane, Wash., spilled diesel at Willard Bay State Park and near the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge.

Division Director Walt Baker said his agency is working with the Attorney General's Office to ensure Chevron is held accountable for the spill and its impacts.

"This release has had a significant effect on a fragile ecosystem," he said. "The popular bird-watching and recreational area has been closed because of this spill."

State law gives the company 30 days to respond to the violation notice and 60 days to address the compliance requirements. Water quality officials then would determine any state fines. "We are committed to cooperating with the Utah Division of Water Quality and

responding to the notice in the required time frame," Chevron spokesman Gareth Johnstone said in an email.

Federal regulators, who fined Chevron nearly \$500,000 for two Utah spills in 2010, haven't determined penalties for the company's latest petroleum leak.

The 8-inch-diameter pipeline failed March 18, spilling fuel in the marshes. State officials credit a beaver dam for holding back much of the fuel, although it left a family of beavers with petroleum burns. The beavers are being nursed back to health at a wildlife rehabilitation center.

The spill also has been blamed for the deaths of a pair of wood ducks as well as some frogs and minnow-like fish, The Salt Lake Tribune reported. Migratory birds have been scared away from the area by the presence of more than 100 cleanup workers.

State officials said some of the spilled fuel is seeping into groundwater and making its way beyond containment booms at Willard Bay State Park. They have said a cleanup could take months instead of weeks as originally thought, leaving the park indefinitely closed. □

Thermo Fisher reportedly nears deal for Life Tech

NEW YORK (AP) — Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. is reportedly nearing a deal to buy Life Technologies Corp., a maker of genetic testing equipment, for almost \$12 billion.

Thermo Fisher's bid for Life Technologies topped \$70 a share, beating out bids from other suitors, including the Blackstone Group, the Carlyle Group and other private equity firms, according to published reports. Life Technologies' stock closed Friday at \$68.

Life Technologies, based in Carlsbad, California, said in January that it had hired Deutsche Bank and the boutique bank Moelis & Co. to help with its strategic review. That's usually a sign a company is considering putting itself up for sale. Since that announcement, the company's stock has climbed 24 percent.

Calls to Life Technologies and Thermo Fisher, based in Waltham, Massachusetts, were not immediately returned. □



Executive Vice President and CFO Juan Jose Roman, center, and Vice President-Treasury Luis Cabrera, right, of Evertec, Inc., join applause as their company's stock begins trading during its IPO, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Friday, April 12, 2013. Evertec is a full-service transaction processing business in Latin America and the Caribbean with headquarters in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Associated Press

Safe is sexy; defensive stocks lead gains for the S&P 500

By Steve Rothwell
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) -- For stock investors, safe is the new sexy. Health care companies like Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer are surging as investors buy stocks that give them what they used to get from bonds — a steady investment with a regular payout. Consumer staples stocks like Procter & Gamble and utilities are also charging higher. These stocks — which offer good dividends and can grow regardless of the state of the economy — show that investors are hungry for more income, but aren't ready to take on too much risk.

"Defensive sectors, especially those that have these attractive dividend yields have been the investment of choice for those that are looking to dip their toes back into the water," says Stephen Parker, a portfolio manager at JPMorgan Private Bank.

The Federal Reserve's efforts to stimulate the U.S. economy — holding interest rates close to zero and spending \$85 billion a month on bond purchases — have pushed bond yields so low that investors are being forced to look elsewhere to find income.

At the same time, people are getting comfortable with the idea of holding stocks again after being burnt by the market collapse that followed the financial crisis and the onset of the Great Recession. The Standard & Poor's 500 index is up 135 percent from its recession low on March 9, 2009. Housing is recovering, companies are hiring and corporate profits are strong.

"Investors are tired of missing out on the rally that we've seen in stocks but, they're not willing to go full in," says Brad Sorensen a director of market and sector research at Charles Schwab. With so-called defensive stocks, people are "hedging their bets on the stock market a little bit."

Stock mutual funds took in \$38.2 billion of net deposits in the first three month of the year, compared with an outflow of \$4.6 billion last year, according to Lipper fund flow data.

The demand has contributed to the stock market's jump in 2013. The Dow Jones industrial average is up 13 percent while S&P 500 has climbed 11 percent. Leading the gains are health care stocks. They have climbed almost 20 percent followed by

consumer staples at 16.5 percent and utilities at 15.3 percent. Meanwhile, the industries you would expect to do well during a recovery are lagging. Energy companies, which often lead the pack during times of growth, have gained 8.1 percent this year.

It's easy to see the attraction of stocks.

Johnson & Johnson has a dividend yield of 3 percent, compared with a yield of 1.9 percent for its top-rated bonds. The company's products range from baby oil to medical devices.

Procter & Gamble, which makes necessities like Pampers and Tide detergent, has a dividend yield of 2.8 percent. That's a higher than the company's bonds, which yield 2.2 percent. Investors could also see the stock price rise.

P&G has returned 19 percent this year, including a 56 cent dividend payment it made in January. Johnson & Johnson has also returned 19 percent, including a 61 cent payment to shareholders in February.

Still, rising prices will eventually lead to diminishing returns. As with bonds, the more stocks rise, the lower the income they generate in relation to the investment made. □

AP Exclusive: Likely tax cheats flock South, West

By Stephen Ohlemacher
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Worried the Internal Revenue Service might target you for an audit? You probably should be if you own a small business in one of the wealthy suburbs of Los Angeles.

You might also be wary if you're a small-business owner in one of dozens of communities near San Francisco, Houston, Atlanta or the District of Columbia.

A new study by the National Taxpayer Advocate used confidential IRS data to show large clusters of potential tax cheats in these five metropolitan areas. The IRS uses the information to target taxpayers for audits.

The taxpayer advocate, Nina Olsen, runs an independent office within the IRS. She got access to the data as part of an effort to learn more about why some taxpayers are more likely to cheat than others. The study also looked at tax compliance in different industries, and found that people who own construction companies or real estate rental firms may be more likely to fudge their taxes than business owners



This March 22, 2013 file photo shows the exterior of the Internal Revenue Service building in Washington.

in other fields.

Many of the communities identified by the study are very wealthy, including Beverly Hills and Newport Beach in California. Others are more middle class, such as New Carrollton, Md., a Washington suburb, and College Park, Ga., home to a section of Atlanta's massive airport.

Steve Rosansky, president and CEO of the Newport Beach Chamber of Com-

merce, said business owners in his city are probably targeted because many have high incomes. The likelihood of an audit does increase with income, according to IRS data.

"I imagine it's just a matter of them going where they think the money's at," Rosansky said in an interview. "I guess if I was running the IRS I'd probably do the same thing."

The study focused on small-

business owners — sole proprietorships, to be specific — because they have more opportunity than the typical individual to cheat on their taxes. Many small businesses deal in cash while most individuals get paid in wages that are reported to the IRS.

The IRS only audits about 1 percent of tax returns each year, so the agency tries to pick returns that are most likely to yield additional tax

money.

The IRS will not say much about how agents choose their targets. But as millions of procrastinators scramble to meet Monday's deadline to file their taxes, the agency is running every tax return through a confidential computer program to determine the chances of collecting more money from an audit.

Each tax return is assigned a score. The higher your score, the more likely you are to get audited because, according to the IRS, the more likely you are cheating on your taxes.

The score is called the Discriminant Inventory Function, or DIF. A high DIF score does not guarantee you are a tax cheat but the IRS claims it's reliable. □

"If your return is selected because of a high score under the DIF system, the potential is high that an examination of your return will result in a change to your income tax liability," says an IRS publication that explains the auditing process.

How do you get high score? The IRS won't say, but veteran tax preparers and former IRS workers believe they have a pretty good idea. □

Associated Press

EU officials seek more private investment in jobs

By Don Melvin
Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) -- With many of the European Union's economies mired in stagnation, EU officials are seeking to emulate part of the U.S. model for creating growth and jobs by fostering more private investment in businesses.

Irish Finance Minister Michael Noonan said Saturday that in the United States banks account for only 25 percent of external financing for businesses. In Europe, he said, the proportion is the opposite — 70 to 75 percent of business financing comes from banks. He spoke at the conclusion of a two-day meeting of EU

finance ministers in Dublin. "There was a shared view that we must begin to take tangible action to assist in developing a more balanced financial system in which banks, institutional investors and public authorities all play a role in supporting long-term investment in growth and jobs," Noonan said.

This is important, he said, as many small and medium-sized businesses in the EU lack access to capital. Because Ireland currently holds the EU's rotating six-month presidency, Noonan chaired the meeting.

In January, unemployment across the 17 EU countries that use the euro hit a re-

cord 11.9 percent, with nearly 19 million people out of work. The unemployment rate for young people was 24.2 percent.

And the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, predicts the unemployment rate will rise further this year.

The finance ministers also agreed to push for completion of a banking union that would create a single set of rules for banks in the union, a single supervisory mechanism and uniform procedures for winding down banks that fail. And they renewed their pledge to work together to fight tax evasion — a practice they said many people



German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schauble waits for the start of an informal meeting of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) in Dublin, Ireland, Friday, April 12, 2013.

Associated Press

found particularly galling at a time when government cutbacks and tax

increases are wreaking havoc with their personal finances. □

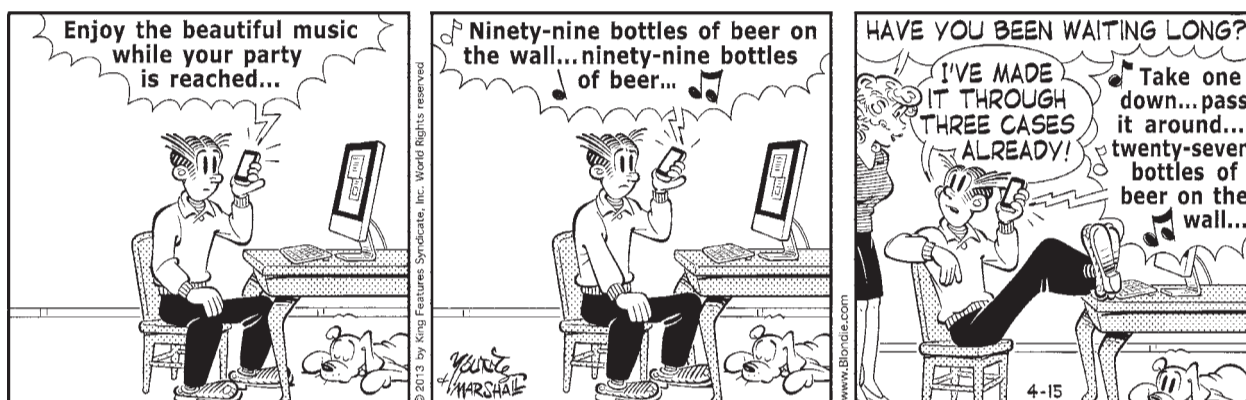
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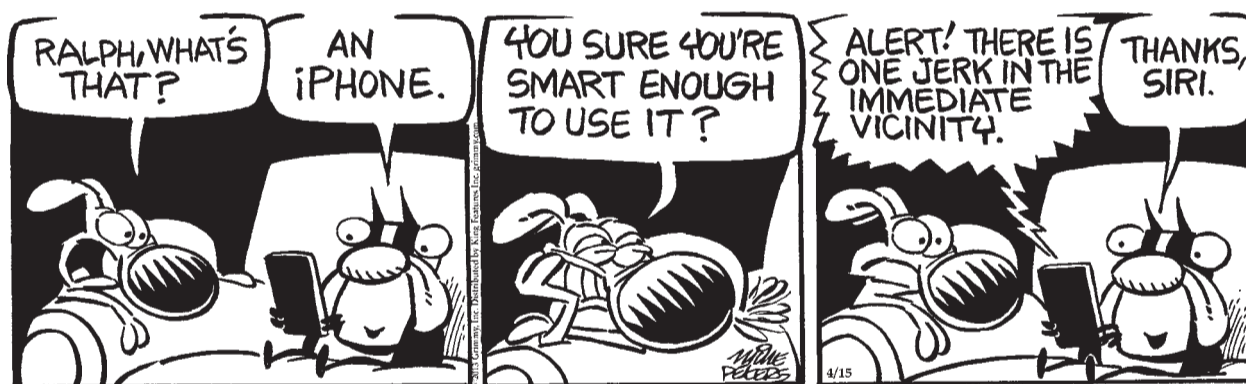
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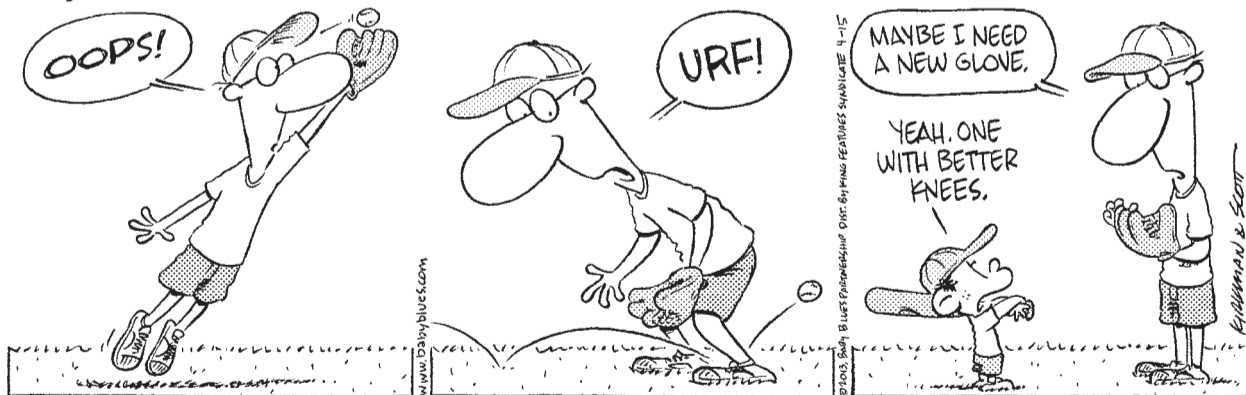
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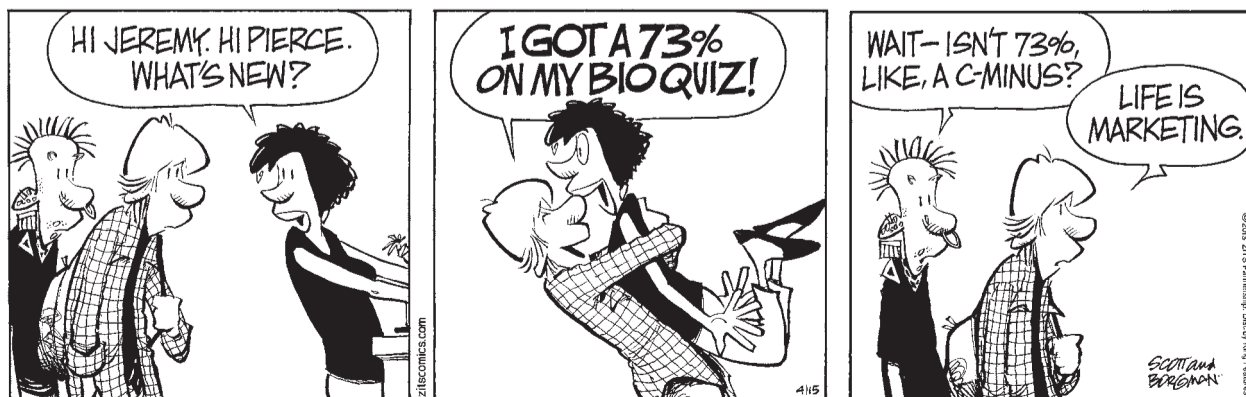
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

9	7	1	6	2				
1			9					3
			2	6				8
4			8			1	4	
	7	9						
6			8	5				9
5			2					
	3	8		6		2		4

Difficulty Level ★ 4/15

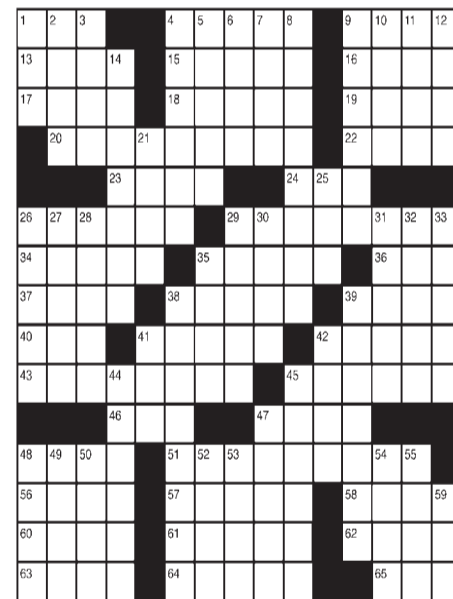
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

5	3	8	7	9	6	4	2	1
9	7	1	2	4	8	3	6	5
2	6	4	3	5	1	9	7	8
6	5	2	1	8	4	7	3	9
1	4	3	9	6	7	5	8	2
7	8	9	5	2	3	6	1	4
3	9	7	4	1	2	8	5	6
4	1	6	8	3	5	2	9	7
8	2	5	6	7	9	1	4	3

ACROSS

- 1 Happiness
- 4 Command
- 9 ___suey; Chinese dish
- 13 Lamb bearers
- 15 Irk
- 16 Hawaiian island
- 17 Tempo
- 18 Bits of land in the sea
- 19 Radar screen image
- 20 Playwright
- 22 Wines & cines
- 23 Traitors
- 24 Hairy as an ___
- 26 Think highly of
- 29 Collection of info stored in a computer
- 34 Turn a handle
- 35 Absorbent cloth
- 36 Spoil
- 37 Engagement symbol
- 38 ___ a question; asked
- 39 Explorer Marco
- 40 Inventor ___ Whitney
- 41 Stitched
- 42 Bessie Smith's music style
- 43 Eases up, as a rope
- 45 Vulgar; unrefined
- 46 Lung contents
- 47 Powder
- 48 Messy person
- 51 Well-known
- 56 Cab
- 57 In any ___; regardless
- 58 Piece of tall marsh grass
- 60 Heating chamber
- 61 Good judgment
- 62 June 6, 1944
- 63 Skillets
- 64 Derisive smile
- 65 That girl



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 4/15/13

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

MOBS	CLACK	INTO
AXLE	HELEN	MEOW
REEL	AGILE	MANE
ENDLESS	LABORED	
	ELM	RADAR
DWARF	FAR	RACES
RIBS	NON	PELLET
ADO	MOOCHED	ARE
FODDER	HEW	BRIE
TWEET	BEN	BAKED
	CARES	PUB
SHALLOW	FUMBLES	
WADI	CABIN	LIME
ALAN	KIOSK	ERMA
TOME	SLATS	RAYA

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DOWN

- 1 Florida's Bush
- 2 Had obligations
- 3 Jagged
- 35 Small city
- 38 Unequaled
- 39 Poster
- 41 Enjoy the slopes
- 42 Courageous
- 44 Forest homes
- 45 Horse's gait
- 47 Upright
- 48 Go no farther
- 49 Molten rock
- 50 Plow animals
- 52 Tied, as scores
- 53 Trait transmitter
- 54 Cincinnati team
- 55 Slangy reply
- 59 Coloring liquid

9/11 memorial charging \$2 reservation fee

NEW YORK (AP) — Visitors to the National September 11 Memorial & Museum must now pay a \$2 service fee to reserve passes on-line or by phone.

The fee went into effect last month, although there is no charge for admission to the memorial on the World Trade Center site. There's also no charge for same-day passes distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Family members of some victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks say the fee violates the memorial's mission. "They're making money off the people that died. It's disgusting," Jim Riches, a retired Fire Department of New York deputy chief who lost his firefighter son, told the New York Post.

Memorial President Joe Daniels issued a statement Sunday saying that, "like other similar institutions, in order to help support the operational needs of the 9/11 Memorial we have implemented a service fee, solely for advance res-



ervations." The memorial's website says the reservation system is temporary until certain construction projects are finished. Tax-funded grants have paid for about \$300 million worth of construction, and more than \$400 million came from private donations.

The memorial opened in 2011, attracting about 7 million visitors so far to its two reflecting pools with waterfalls that outline the footprints of the fallen towers.

The foundation that runs the memorial estimates that once the project is

complete, the memorial and museum will together cost \$60 million a year to operate.

The museum is still under construction after an interruption involving a funding fight between the foundation and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which owns the 16-acre (6.5-hectare) trade center site. □

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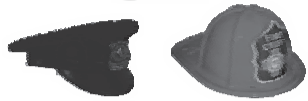
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Alarm over vanishing frogs in the Caribbean

**BEN FOX,
EZEQUIEL ABUI LOPEZ
Associated Press**

PATILLAS, Puerto Rico (AP)

— A curtain of sound envelops the two researchers as they make their way along the side of a mountain in darkness, occasionally hacking their way with a machete to reach the mouth of a small cave.

Peeps, tweets and staccato whistles fill the air, a pulsing undercurrent in the tropical night. To the untrained ear, it's just a mishmash of noise. To experts tracking a decline in amphibians with growing alarm, it's like a symphony in which some of the players haven't been showing up.

In parts of Puerto Rico, for example, there are places where researchers used to hear four species at once and they are now hearing one or two, a subtle but important change.

"You are not hearing what you were before," said Alberto Lopez, part of a husband-and-wife team of biologists trying to gauge the health of frogs on the island.

Scientists report that many types of amphibians, especially frogs, are in a steep global decline likely caused by a mix of habitat loss, climate change, pollution and a virulent fungus. The downward spiral is striking particularly hard in the Caribbean, where a majority of species are now losing a fragile hold in the ecosystem.

Without new conservation measures, there could be a massive die-off of Caribbean frogs within 15 years, warned Adrell Nunez, an amphibian expert with the Santo Domingo Zoo in the Dominican Republic. "There are species that



In this March 21, 2013 photo, Ana Longo, a researcher with Proyecto Coqui, holds a Coqui Guajon or Rock Frog (*Eleutherodactylus cooki*) at a tropical forest in Patillas, Puerto Rico.

Associated Press



In this March 21, 2013 photo, Ana Longo, a researcher with Proyecto Coqui, holds a Coqui or Common Coqui (*Eleutherodactylus coqui*) at a tropical forest in Patillas, Puerto Rico.

Associated Press

area for pharmaceutical research and a bio-indicator that can tell scientists about what's going on in the environment.

"We are just starting to understand the ripple down effects and the repercussions of losing amphibians," said Jamie Voyles, a biologist at New Mexico Tech in Albuquerque and one of the principal investigators of Project Atelopos, an effort to study and protect frogs of an endangered genus in Panama.

Rafael Joglar, a biologist at the University of Puerto

found only within a small habitat on just one island. Take, for example, the coqui guajon, or rock frog, which was the focus of attention by Lopez and Longo on a recent night. About the size of a golf ball, it is what's known as a habitat specialist, found only in caves of a certain kind of volcanic rock along streams in southeastern Puerto Rico.

There are 17 known spots designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as critical habitat for the rock frog, all of them on private



In this March 21, 2013 photo, Alberto Lopez, a researcher with Proyecto Coqui, holds a Coqui de las Hierbas or Grass Coqui (*Eleutherodactylus brittoni*) at a tropical forest in Patillas, Puerto Rico.

Associated Press

we literally know nothing about" that could be lost, he said. Researchers such as Lopez and his wife, Ana Longo Berrios, have been fanning out across the Caribbean and returning with new and troubling evidence of the decline. In some places, especially in Haiti, where severe deforestation is added to the mix of problems, extinctions are possible. It is part of a grim picture overall. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature has found that 32 percent of the world's amphibian species are threatened or extinct, including more than

200 alone in both Mexico and Colombia.

"Everywhere we are seeing declines and it's severe," said Jan Zegarra, a biologist based in Puerto Rico for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Frogs may be less charismatic than some other troubled species, but their role in the environment is important. They are consumed by birds and snakes and they in turn are major predators of mosquitoes.

There are also less tangible reasons for protection. The coqui, the common name for a genus that includes 17 species in Puerto Rico, including three believed to be already extinct, is important to the cultural heritage of the island; it's considered a symbol of the island, seen in everything from indigenous petroglyphs to coffee mugs sold to tourists at the airport. Frogs, which breathe and process toxins through their skin, are considered a promising

Rico, has noted the diminishing nighttime calls in decades of research on the island and not just from the three species believe to have gone extinct. "Many of the other species that were common when I was a younger student ... are now disappearing and are actually very rare."

In percentage terms, the worst situation for frogs is the Caribbean, where more than 80 percent of species are threatened or extinct in the Dominican Republic, Cuba and Jamaica and more than 90 percent in Haiti, according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. In Puerto Rico, it's around 70 percent.

"The frogs in the Caribbean are in very bad shape," Joglar said.

One major reason the Caribbean is so vulnerable is that many species are

land. Longo and Lopez, working for a research and public education initiative called Proyecto Coqui, have been trying to determine the health of the populations on those isolated patches.

"That's why it's such a vulnerable species," Lopez said. "If something happens to the habitat, people can't just grab them and put them in another place on the island because this habitat is only found on the southeast of the island."

In densely populated Haiti, the degradation of the environment has been so severe that only a handful of species are known for certain to still be viable in the country and even they are in trouble, said S. Blair Hedges, a biology professor at Pennsylvania State University who has studied frogs in the Caribbean since the 1980s. □

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Jackie Robinson tale '42' scores with \$27.3M debut

By DAVID GERMAIN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Baseball has scored a rare hit in Hollywood, while another American institution — Tom Cruise — has delivered his latest hit overseas.

The Jackie Robinson tale "42" took in \$27.3 million to claim the weekend box-office championship domestically, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The film has yet to open overseas, where the sport is a harder sell. But Cruise knocked it out of the park with a \$61.1 million international launch in 52 countries for his sci-fi thriller "Oblivion."

That bodes well for the domestic debut of "Oblivion" next Friday. The film stars Cruise as a workman on a devastated future Earth who lands in a battle with aliens. If "Oblivion" packs in comparable domestic crowds, it will help maintain the action-star momentum Cruise regained with 2011's "Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol." That return to box-office luster came after some fitful years that followed odd turns in his personal life, culminating with the breakup of his marriage to Katie Holmes last year.

Released by Warner Bros., "42" easily beat the domestic start of an established franchise in "Scary Movie 5." The Weinstein Co. sequel opened in second-place with \$15.2 million, the smallest debut for the horror-comedy series. Three of the previous four "Scary Movie" installments had debuts of \$40 million or more.

On the other hand, "42" outdid the usual expectations for baseball movies, which usually do modest business at best. Box-office trackers had expected "42" to pull in less than \$20 million. The previous weekend's top draw, Sony's horror remake "Evil Dead," tumbled to No. 5 with \$9.5 million, raising its domestic haul to \$41.5 million.

The \$27.3 million opening for "42" is a record for a baseball flick in terms of straight dollars, topping



This film image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Chadwick Boseman as Jackie Robinson in a scene from "42."

the \$19.5 million debut of "Moneyball" in 2011. Factoring in higher ticket prices, the \$13.7 million debut of 1992's "A League of Their Own" would have been on par with "42" in terms of inflation-adjusted dollars.

The film stars Chadwick Boseman as Robinson and Harrison Ford as Brook-

lyn Dodgers boss Branch Rickey, who brought No. 42 onto the team in 1947 as the Major Leagues' first black player.

"It's a story that has so much emotion to it. Jackie Robinson's life had such an influence on our country," said Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner Bros.,

who noted that all Major League players will wear No. 42 on Monday for Jackie Robinson Day, the 66th anniversary of his Dodgers debut. "Think of what a tribute that is for what he accomplished. Every player wearing 42 on his back." With generally good reviews, "42" drew in older

Associated Press

crowds, with 83 percent of the audience over 25, Fellman said. "Scary Movie 5" was the franchise's first installment in seven years and had the same lukewarm reception as another Weinstein series that returned after a long lag. In 2011, "Scream 4" opened 11 years after the franchise's last movie and took in just \$18.7 million, a fraction of the \$30 million-plus debuts for the previous two sequels. The previous low for the "Scary Movie" series was the second one, which opened with \$20.5 million in 2001. "Scary Movie 3" had the best debut, with \$48.1 million in 2003, though its total domestic haul of \$110 million fell well short of the \$157 million take for the 2000 original.

"Sometimes, when there's too big of a lag, people lose interest. If it's a 'Star Wars' movie, nostalgia works in your favor. The long lag works in your favor. People are loaded with anticipation," said Paul Dergarabedian, an analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com. □

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This March 19, 2013 file photo shows Canadian singer Justin Bieber performing during a concert at Bercy arena in Paris.

Associated Press

Bieber criticized for Anne Frank comment

TOBY STERLING
Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Justin Bieber wrote an entry into a guestbook at the Anne Frank House museum in Amsterdam, saying he hoped the Jewish teenager who died in a Nazi concentration camp “would have been a Belieber” — or fan of his — if history were different.

The comment triggered a flood of criticism on the museum’s Facebook page Sunday, with many criticizing the 19-year-old Canadian pop star for writing something they perceive to be insensitive.

Calls made and emails sent to Bieber’s publicist and agent in Los Angeles weren’t immediately returned.

Museum spokeswoman Maatje Mostart confirmed that Bieber visited Friday evening. She said the museum was happy to have received Bieber and didn’t see anything offensive in his remarks.

Anne Frank was a Jewish teenager who hid with her family in a small apartment above a warehouse during the Nazi occupation of World War II. Her family was caught and deported, and Anne died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1945.

The diary she kept in hiding was recovered and published after the war, and has become the most widely read document to emerge from the Holocaust.

Bieber’s whole note read:

“Truly inspiring to be able to come here. Anne was a great girl. Hopefully she would have been a Belieber.”

Mostart said Bieber called ahead and was given a guided tour. Bieber’s remarks led to criticism from some quarters, as a Facebook response insulting Bieber received more than a thousand “likes” — slightly more than the museum’s original post about the incident. Meanwhile on Twitter, posts mocking Bieber and imagining that he had visited the museum and walked away thinking only of himself began circulating Sunday, though the message is open to interpretation. Some of Bieber’s 37 million followers also Tweeted messages of support. Others in his fan base — which is heavily weighted toward young girls — tweeted that they didn’t know who Anne Frank was. Frank was 13 years old when she began keeping her diary in 1942. Like many teenage girls, she made a collage of the celebrities of her day — movie stars, dancers, and royalty — and kept it on her bedroom wall.

“Our little room looked very bare at first with nothing on the walls; but thanks to Daddy who had brought my film-star collection and picture postcards ... with the aid of a paste pot and brush, I have transformed the walls into one gigantic picture,” she wrote on July 11, 1942, just days after going into hiding. □

‘Defiance’ attempts blend of TV series, video game



This publicity image released by Syfy shows Julie Benz as Amanda Rosewater, left, Graham Greene as Rafe McCawley, and Grant Bowler as Jeb Nolan, right, in a scene from the series, “Defiance,” premiering Monday, April 15, 2013 at 9 p.m. EST on Syfy.

Associated Press

RYAN PEARSON
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Earth is recovering from an apocalyptic event, alien races cooperate warily, a wise-cracking outsider suddenly finds himself shouldering new responsibilities. Yes, the world of “Defiance” features familiar sci-fi touchstones, but it’s taken an ambitious approach to how you can experience them: Through both a weekly TV series and an online-only video game.

Five years in the making, the joint project is the most high-profile and big-budget attempt at ongoing “transmedia” entertainment, promising characters and storylines that crisscross between the Syfy network show and Trion Worlds game. Set in 2046 on a “terraformed” Earth where humans live alongside seven alien species, the series premiering Monday displays a space Western vibe with bar brawls, interspecies politics and love, plus actors familiar to genre fans like Julie Benz and Jaime Murray. The already-released game, a multiplayer third-person shooter, has plenty of guns to upgrade, quests for supplies, and boss battles in which players cooperate to bring down giant monsters.

Though they can be expe-

rienced separately, somebody who both plays the game and watches the show will gain an extra layer of insight to each, promises actor Grant Bowler, who appears in both. Bowler said he was impressed and a bit wary of that idea when he signed on to play lead Joshua “Jeb” Nolan, who becomes “lawkeeper” of the city of St. Louis, renamed Defiance by survivors. “I thought ‘Gee, this thing is either going to change the business model of how we make television, and add a new one, or we’re going to go screaming down in flames,’” he said. “But either is -- funnily enough -- fine with me.”

It’s a strategy fraught with challenges. Time and again, games based on successful series or movies have flopped, as have movies or series based on hit games.

“When you take the synthesis of the game and the show together, you’re at a whole new level of excitement, you’re at a whole new level of difficulty,” Bowler said in an interview. “You also increase your chances of blowing it exponentially. Because it’s not like one plus one. It’s more you’re cubing the level of difficulty. Which is why nobody has ever attempted to do it in as in-

tegrated a way as we’ve done it before.”

Bowler began his work on the project by doing motion-capture performance for the game-makers. They asked how his character would act before he’d had a chance to consult with a show-runner or writer, “which is odd for an actor. You’re used to having a director ... Here it was the lunatics were running the asylum.” Since then, each company created new positions in order to pass information along to the other and bring their production schedules into harmony. There still were “a lot of occasions” in which ideas put forth by one company were shot down by the other for technical reasons, Bowler said. And at least at first, there’s no “interactive” storytelling in which players’ choices or actions cause substantive show changes from week to week: Choose Your Own Adventure TV.

“The nature of incorporating ... two very, very different delivery systems is incredibly problematic,” Bowler said. “How you would do it in a more immediate, spontaneous way, I don’t know. I think maybe our experience, what we’re attempting to do, will move us closer to being able to see that idea.” □

Bold on both ends



David Brooks
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time to entertain the possibility that President Barack Obama is a right-wing extremist. After all, look at where he's taking the country over his second term. We're living in a country where 53 percent of children born to women younger than 30 are born out of wedlock, according to government data. Millions of people, especially men, are dropping out of the labor force. Nearly half the students who begin college are unable to graduate within six years. The social fabric for people without college degrees is in shambles.

Yet Obama is not offering proposals commensurate with those problems. Under his budget, domestic discretionary spending would be lower as a share of GDP than it was under Reagan, both Bushes and Nixon. When it comes to this category, Obama's budget would take us back to Eisenhower levels. The president is increasing total revenues to a historically high 20 percent of GDP by 2023. Federal spending would remain at a way-above-average 22 percent of GDP. But Washington still can't seem to devote enough money to address the challenges faced by the less-educated and ease the segmentation of America. That's true even after you account for the domestic programs that are outside the discretionary budget category and have their own funding stream, like the new early childhood initiative.

I generally come to celebrate, not criticize, this budget. Obama has the guts to take on special interests in his own party. He works hard to reduce inequality. He understands that entitlement programs represent a fundamental threat to the sustainability of the welfare state. He understands that politics can only work if the president transcends his base and builds a majority coalition. His budget should put to rest those crazy claims that he is some sort of Norwegian socialist. But being moderate means throwing away ideological blinders and facing reality. Right now, America faces two giant problems: social unraveling today and cataclysmic debt tomorrow. This budget takes small steps to address both problems when big strides are needed.

So where do we go from here? That's easy. First, we have the same kabuki debate we've been having for the past few decades. This debate is organized around the following trade-off: more revenue in exchange for

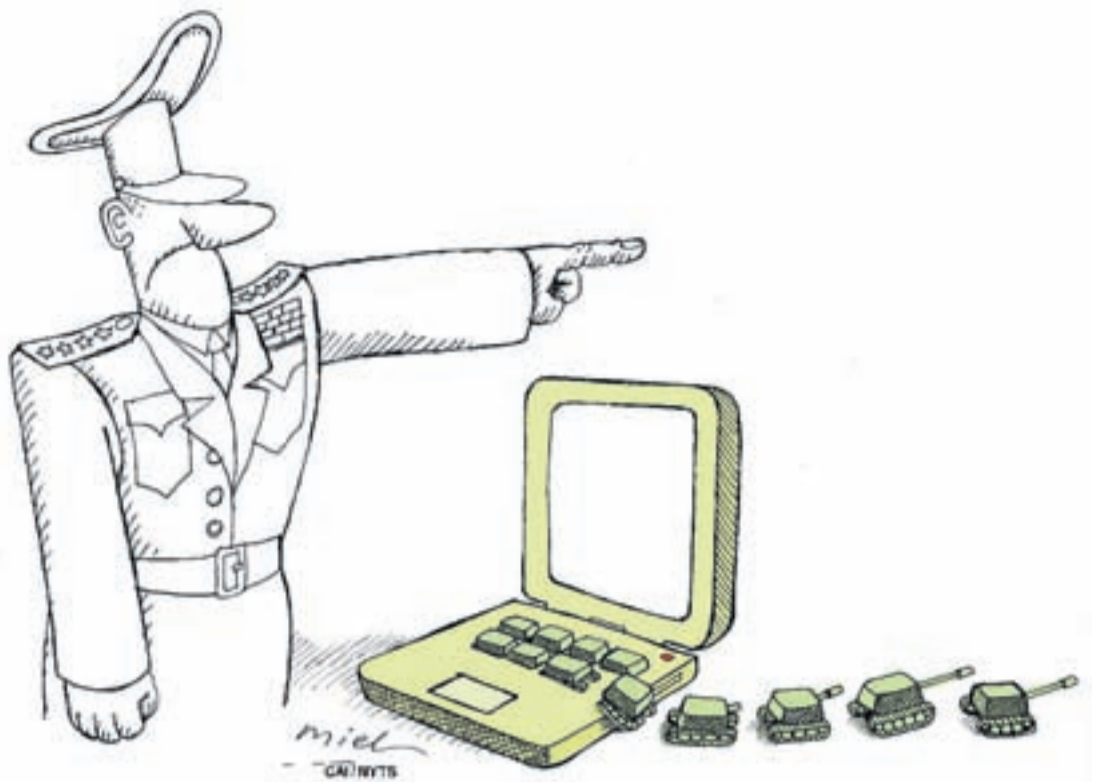
more spending cuts.

This debate will probably go nowhere. Republicans feel as if they've already given away the store on new revenue, so they are not going to be compromising. Obama needs to show Democrats that this budget is the endpoint, not a starting point, for a further rightward drift. He doesn't have much room to compromise either. The kabuki debate will probably end, as it usually does, with gridlock and name-calling. But then we can move on to Debate B. This debate would be organized around a different trade-off – not a balance between taxing and spending, but a balance between greater discretionary spending in exchange for structural entitlement reform. In this framework, Democrats would get a lot of the good ideas that are in the Obama budget, but they'd be bigger and more aggressive. We'd take the pre-k initiative, the spending on scientific research and the infrastructure spending. But then we'd throw on top other programs. Make more men marriageable (by helping them earn a reliable wage). Rebind the social fabric in atomized communities (social entrepreneurship funds). Maybe expand a national service program to give more young adults discipline, orientation and connections. Republicans would get structural entitlement reform. Here, too, we could build on the ideas in the Obama budget, like chained Consumer Price Index for Social Security and the expansion of means-testing for Medicare. Then we could throw on other modest structural reforms: Combine Medicare Parts A and B and further limiting Medigap plans in order to induce seniors to make more cost-conscious decisions. Repair federal pensions and the disability system. Means test Social Security and raise the Medicare eligibility age for affluent workers.

This deal wouldn't represent the moderation of the mushy middle. It would represent muscular moderation that is bold on both ends. Persuade majorities that discretionary spending is not just foreign aid and earmarks. It's the government's best shot at boosting social mobility. Remind Americans that their country can't be a rising nation if we have an entitlements system fit for an aging and declining one.

Right now, we are the North Korea of fiscal policy. We're living under the insane sequester that cuts those programs we should be increasing and spares exactly those old-age programs we should be reforming. Both parties should have incentive to get to a new fiscal regime.

Party leaders could postpone the debate about tax revenues. They could accept higher deficits short term. Most important, they could embrace a deal-making framework that would direct attention toward urgent needs: discretionary programs for now, structural entitlement reforms that accumulate over time. □



Lust for gold



Paul Krugman
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News flash: Recent declines in the price of gold, which is off about 17 percent from its peak, show that this price can go down as well as up. You may consider this an obvious point, but, as an article in *The Times* on Thursday reports, it has come as a rude shock to many small gold investors, who imagined that they were buying the safest of all assets. And thereby hangs a tale. One of the central facts about modern America is that everything is political; on the right, in particular, people choose their views about everything, from environmental science to gun safety, to suit their political prejudices. And the remarkable recent rise of "goldbuggism," in the teeth of all the evidence, shows that this politicization can influence investments as well as voting. What do I mean by goldbuggism? Not the notion that buying gold sometimes makes sense. Gold has been a very good investment since the early 2000s, and it's probably not all bubble. One way to think about this is that gold is like a very long-term bond that's protected from inflation; and actual long-term inflation-protected bonds have also seen big price increases, reflecting a general perception that there aren't enough alternative good investments.

No, being a goldbug means asserting that gold offers unique security in troubled times; it also

means asserting that all would be well if we abolished the Federal Reserve and returned to the good old gold standard, in which the value of the dollar was fixed in terms of gold and that was that. And both forms of goldbuggism soared after 2008.

In the wake of the financial crisis – and to a considerable extent even now – to watch business news on TV, especially on Fox, was to see a lot of talking heads touting gold, not to mention many, many ads from the likes of Goldline. Many Americans were convinced: A third of those polled by Gallup in 2011 declared that gold was the best long-term investment. At the same time, calls for a return to the gold standard proliferated, and not just among marginal figures. Indeed, the 2012 Republican platform effectively demanded a return to gold, calling for a commission to "investigate possible ways to set a fixed value for the dollar" (which it took as self-evidently desirable) and making clear that the preferred route involved a "metallic basis" for the currency. So the financial crisis of 2008 brought a surge in gold fever (although that surge has abated a bit since 2011). But why? After all, historically, gold has been anything but a safe investment. Sometimes it yields big gains, as it did in the late 1970s and again between 2001 and 2011. But that 1970s run-up was followed by an epic plunge, with the real value of gold falling by more than two-thirds.

Meanwhile, the modern world's closest equivalent to the classical gold standard is the euro, which puts European countries back under more or less the same constraints they faced when gold ruled. It's true that the European Central Bank can print money if it chooses to, but individual countries, like nations on the gold standard, can't.

And who would hold up these countries' recent experience as an example of something we'd like to emulate? So how can we rationalize the modern goldbug position? Basically, it depends on the claim that runaway inflation is just around the corner.

Why have so many people found this claim persuasive? John Maynard Keynes famously dismissed the gold standard as a "barbarous relic," noting the absurdity of yoking the fortunes of a modern industrial society to the supply of a decorative metal. But he also acknowledged that "gold has become part of the apparatus of conservatism and is one of the matters which we cannot expect to see handled without prejudice." And so it remains to this day. Conservative-minded people tend to support a gold standard – and to buy gold – because they're very easily persuaded that "fiat money," money created on a discretionary basis in an attempt to stabilize the economy, is really just part of the larger plot to take away their hard-earned wealth and give it to you-know-who. But the runaway inflation that was supposed to follow reckless money-printing – inflation that the usual suspects have been declaring imminent for four years and more – keeps not happening. For a while, rising gold prices helped create some credibility for the goldbugs even as their predictions about everything else proved wrong, but now gold as an investment has turned sour, too. So will we be seeing prominent goldbugs change their views or at least lose a lot of their followers? I wouldn't bet on it. In modern America, as I suggested at the beginning, everything is political; and goldbuggism, which fits so perfectly with common political prejudices, will probably continue to flourish no matter how wrong it proves. □

U.S. instruction of students learning English bleak

CHRISTINE ARMARIO

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Duna Lopez started school in Miami last fall not knowing a single word of English.

The 8-year-old girl from Barcelona, Spain, with dark blond hair was placed in the Coral Way Bilingual K-8 Center, the nation's oldest bilingual school. For half the day, she receives classes in Spanish; it's English for the rest. During language arts, she gets pulled out with three other new arrivals for extra help on grammar and phonics.

After seven months, she's one of the most active participants in class.

"In five months, like that, I learned it," she said.

Duna's success is exceptional, but the language challenge she faced is increasingly common across the U.S. educational map. Nationwide, nonwhites are expected to become a majority of the population within a generation, and schools are at the cutting edge of that historic shift.

School-age children who speak a language other than English at home are one of the fastest-growing populations. Their numbers doubled between 1980 and 2009, and they now make up 21 percent of school-age children.

There were 4.7 million students classified as "English language learners" — those who have not yet achieved proficiency in English — in the 2009-10 school year, or about 10 percent of children enrolled, according to the most recent figures available from the U.S. Department of Education.

"This is part of a new reality that our public schools are facing," said Robert Linqanti, an expert in English learner students for WestEd, an education research agency based in San Francisco. "It's been coming for a long time but now it's hitting a tipping point."

Of all the challenges facing minority students and their schools, English learners are arguably the most disadvantaged. It's hard to find enough teachers who are qualified to instruct them,



In this April 3, 2013 photo, a sticker reading, "We also speak English," hangs with writings in Spanish on the wall of a classroom at the Coral Way K-8 Center, the nation's largest bilingual school, in Miami. Students who speak a language other than English at home are one of the fastest-growing populations. Associated Press



In this April 3, 2013 photo, teacher Julia Puentes, center, demonstrates the use of an exclamation point in a sentence during an English class at the Coral Way K-8 Center, the nation's oldest bilingual school, in Miami.

Associated Press

and there's little consistency in the programs used to educate them.

The country is divided over the best way to educate them, with bilingual programs gathering steam but also provoking a sometimes heated debate with those who favor an English-only approach. English learner students are more likely to be in poor, overcrowded schools and in many places represent an added cost to already cash-strapped school districts.

The longer these students stay in special language programs, the further they fall behind in other subjects. In several states, their graduation rates are at less than 60 percent, and as low as 29 percent in Nevada, ac-

ording to federal data. Just 7 percent of fourth-grade and 3 percent of eighth-grade English learners scored "proficient" or above in a nationwide reading exam, and thousands languish for years in ineffective English-as-a-second-language programs.

On a scale of one to 10, the education of the nation's English learners is "below five," said Gary Cook, a specialist with the Wisconsin Center for Education Research.

"Their success is our success," Cook said. "If they really can't meet the educational expectations of what's coming — that is, the need to be knowledge workers, not necessar-

ily physical workers — then we're in a world of hurt."

The vast majority of English learners, more than two-thirds at the elementary school level, were born in the United States. They represent many different languages and ethnicities, but the majority is Hispanic. Overall, 38 percent of Hispanic fourth-grade students were identified

with a bachelor's degree. The language barrier does not affect the majority, but for those who enter school as English learners the challenges are even greater.

Asian students represent the second largest group of English learners. States such as California, Texas, New Mexico and Nevada have some of the largest proportions of English learners in their school-age populations. They also are widely concentrated in low-income, urban schools. A study by the Urban Institute found that 70 percent are educated in 5,000 elementary schools, just 10 percent of the nation's schools.

The segregation of these students is reflective of both neighborhood segregation and a decision on the part of some districts to group these students together in order to provide them with qualified teachers and bilingual programs that are scarce, said Richard Fry, a senior research associate for the Pew Hispanic Center. But the schools they attend also tend to have the highest rates of poverty, larger pupil-teacher ratios and bigger schools.

"They are clearly at risk,"



In this April 3, 2013 photo, Duna Lopez, 8, center, whispers into the ear of classmate Mathew Botros, 9, right, during an English class at the Coral Way K-8 Center, in Miami, the nation's oldest

as English learners, as well as 20 percent of Hispanic eighth-grade students, according to the 2011 National Assessment of Education Progress math test.

Latino students overall have some of the highest dropout rates and the lowest share of the population

said Fry. An English learner's entrance into the public school system usually starts with a home language survey, which asks whether another language is used at home and which language the child speaks most frequently. □